THE Most Pleasant History OF ORNATUS, AND ARTESIA.

SHEWING,

The Tyrannical and Wicked Reign of Thœon King of *Phrygia*; Who having slain his lawful Soveraign, Usurped the Kingdom, and grievously oppressed the People, was afterwards murthered by one of his own Servants.

With the manner of his Son Lenon's falling in love with the beautiful *Artesia*, his several strange and unheard of Plots contrived to attain his Desires, and the miseries she endured thereby; till by the Prudence, Valour and Fortitude of *Ornatus*, she was set at Liberty.

ALSO,

How by the assistance of the King of Armenia, and the Policy of *Phylastes*, *Ornatus* recovered the Kingdom (to which he was right Heir) and afterwards he and *Artesia* (being Royally married together) crowned King and Queen of *Phrygia*.

The Fifth Edition; Exactly corrected and amended.

LONDON, Printed by *E. Alsop*, dwelling near the Upper Pump in *Grubstreet*. 1656.

To his Noble and Ingenuous Friend, Mr. EDMOND BUCKWORTH,

of the County of *Norfolk* Gentleman: Now resident in Sr. KATHARINES Court, *LONDON.*

SIR,

I Have nouriſht in my ſelf a continual care of ſeeking opportunities to do do you ſervice, and take more delight in rendring my ſelf yours, then in the wayes of the world: I beſeech you therefore (ſince the Author of this well-poliſht Hiſtory is deceaſed) to honour me with the acceptation of this Dedication. It preſenteth it ſelf in a home-bred dreſs, in well-applied words, not in tedious borrowed phraſes; wherein the well-affected ſhall not finde any cauſe of offence, the vertuous any termes to diſcontent them, nor the vitious any examples to ſuit with their evil diſpo-

ſitions. Here you may ſee Uſurpation tyrannize, Avarice guilty of murther, and Luſt leaving no unlawful means unattempted to ſatisfie his laſcivious appetite; yet all theſe ſubdued by Vertue. Sir, I have taken upon me the boldneſſe to preſent it to you, to ſhew that I am not altogether unmindeful to gratifie thoſe many civil curteſies I have received of yõu; and I deſire you to accept of it, as the ſum of that which my abilitie (in this my clouded condition) can afford. The ſubject being but a Fancie of the witty Authors, I know is not ſuitable to your grave diſpoſition, yet the ſage Cicero took much pleaſure in reading of the works of Ovid, and that Worthy of the world Alexander the Great, took ſuch delight in Homers Iliads, that in his youth he ſlept with them under his pillow. Since then many Learned and Honorable perſons have delighted in Hiſtories of this Nature, be pleas'd at your retirement from your noble ſtudy of Phiſick (in which Art your induſtry and daily practiſe hath made you a famous proficient) to peruſe this for your recreation: And look not upon the valew of the gift, but the real affection of the giver, who is cordially devoted

devoted to you, and will be ready to ſhew his realitie in any trial you ſhall make thereof. I muſt acknowledge my ſelf an enemie to Court-ſhip, and think it a ſin unpardonable to doubt Your nobleneſs in the acceptation; therefore amidſt my misfortunes, I am proud of the honour to make Your goodneſs known to the world. Sir, the reception of this, ſhall make me conſerve the memorie of all Your other favours which have ſo extremely obliged me; And though for the preſent I am one of your unprofitable Servants, I ſhall not fail hereafter to merit it, or to carry a ſorrow with me to my grave.

Yours alwayes to ſerve you,

ROBERT WOOD.

The

The Printer to the Reader.

COURTEOUS READER,

THe writings of this worthy Authour, were ſo well approved of by our ſage Anceſtors, that I am confident they will not be diſrelisht in this Critical Age: This was the firſt-born of his Virgin quill, therefore the iuditious, will (according to the quality of their diſpoſitions) valew the Work not by the worth, but by the good intention of the Penman. As for theſe that lawleſsly diſlike, or raſhly condemn without judgement, their cenſures are of no more eſtimation then the Down of Thiſtles, which is diſpierſt with every blaſt. His deſire was onely to gain the good opinion of the iuditious, and theſe well affected to Learning, which I hope your goodneſs will afford him; In confidence whereof I ſhall remain,

Yours,

Ro: Wood.

THE

The Portraiture of the Renowned Cleoreton and the vertuous Cloriana.

THE Most Pleasant HISTORY, OF ORNATUS AND ARTESIA.

CHAP. I.

How *Ornatus* became enamoured of the Fair *Artesia*.

IN the rich and renowned Country of Phrygia, in Provinces near adjacent to each other, dwelt two ancient Noblemen; the one named Allinus, the other Arbastus; men of great possessions, and much honoured. Betwixt whom, such extream contention and hatred remained, by reason of the death of one Renon, brother to Allinus, long since slain in a quarrel by certain Gentlemen belonging to Arbastus, that neither their own Wisdome, nor the sundry perswasions of Friends to either party allied, were of any force to mitigate the same: Both of them being enriched with innumerable blessings, especially in their fair progeny.

Allinus had a Son of goodly stature, and commendable gifts, named Ornatus. And Arbastus a Daughter called Artesia, of exceeding comelinesse, exteriorly beautified with abundance of gifts of Nature, and inwardly adorned with divine perfections.

Yet by reason of their Parents discord, they remained as ignorant in knowledge one of the other, as if they had lived in the distance of the most remotest Climates.

Ornatus above all things delighted in Hawking; and on a day (being weary) he wandred without company, with his Hawk on his fist into a most pleasant Valley, where he shrowded himself under the shadow of a tuft of green Trees, with purpose to rest himself, and even when his eys were ready to yeild to slumber, he was rouzed from his drowsines by the noise of a kennel of Hounds, that past by him in chase of a Stag, after whom Arbastus and divers in his company (though to him unknown) followed, who being passed by (whilest he was in a deep study to think who they should be) he espyed a beautiful Damzel entring the same Valley, who being weary, liking the prospect of that shady tuft of trees, alighted there, which Ornatus seeing, withdrew himself from her sight; whilest she (tying her Steed to a bush, laid her delicate body down upon the cooling earth, to refresh her self, and dry up her sweat: Which the sooner to accomplish, she unlaced her garments, and with a decent and comely behaviour, discovered her milk white neck and breast, beautified with two round precious teats, to receive the breath of the cool Winde, which was affected with a delight to exhale the moistned vapors from her pure body. Ornatus seeing all, and unseen himself, noted with a delight each perfect lineament of her proper body, beauty, sweet favour, and other comelines, which filled his heart with exceeding pleasure, and grew into an unrestrained affection towards her, and a great study what she should be: When suddenly his Hawk feeling his fist moveable, thinking to pearch, did with quiet prune her self, and having taken Wing, with the noise of his Bels made Artesia start; who as one half agast, with a fearful behaviour rose from the ground, and looking round about her from whence that sound came, she espyed Ornatus, who unwilling she should perceive he had seen her, lay as if he had slept; Artesia marvelling what he should be, and accordingly thinking he had slept, closed her naked breast with great haste, and unlowsing her horse,

thought

thought to go away unespied. Which Ornatus perceiving, and unwilling without speaking to her to lose her sight, seemed to awake, and raising himself, stedfastly beheld her, which infused such a vermilion blush into her beautiful cheeks, and withall such a bashful confusion spread it self in her conceits, that she stood like one half amazed and ashamed.

Which Ornatus perceiving, drew towards her, and greeted her with these speeches. Fair Damzel, be not abashed with my presence though a stranger, who shall no way (if I can chuse) offend you, but rather command me, and I will be ready to do you any service. Artesia notwithstanding his speeches, withdrew her self aside, leading her horse to a Bank, where with ease she mounted, and so rode away; not giving him any answer at all.

Ornatus marvelled thereat, yet rightly imputed her unkinde departure to her fear, not discourtesie: and seeing himself deprived of her sight, and the Night approaching; he departed home to his Fathers house.

After Supper, betaking himself to his Chamber (with intent to rest) he was possessed with such remembrance of the beautiful Damzel he had seen that his sleep was transformed into continual cogitations of her beauty, and the pleasant sight he had seen in the discovery of some of her hidden features, imprinted such a delight in his affectionate conceits, that he could take no sleep, but continued all that night in those meditations.

The next morning, thinking to shake off all further remembrance of her, he got him into the company of his most chosen friends, wherein formerly he took most delight, yet now by reason of his distemperature, he seemed to be weary of them. He had not continued long with them, but he was saluted by a Gentleman named Philastes, with whom he was familiarly acquainted. This Gentleman belonged to an ancient Duke named Turnus, who at that time solemnized the honour of his Birthday; from which Allinus excused himself, because he thought he should meet Arbastus there; but lest the Duke should justly be offended with him, he granted that his Son Ornatus should go to do him honour.

Which Phylastes acquainted Ornatus withall, who glad thereof, departed thither in company of divers other Gentlemen: the Duke likewise had sent another Messenger to request Arbastus company, who being of a more mild nature then Albinus, willingly went, and with him his Lady, and fair daughter Artesia.

Chap. II.

How *Ornatus* came to the knowledge of *Artesia*, and intreated *Adellena* to make known his love to her; and of the rebuke *Artesia* gave her.

After the Feast was ended, and the Duke had honoured his Guests with all manner of courtesie, he and the principallest, amongst whom Arbastus was one of the chief, according to the custom used in the Country, seated themselves to behold certain Games and exercises to be performed by the young Gentlemen; which was running, wrestling, and divers other exercises for tryal of the strength and nimbleness of the body; among the rest (Ornatus having never before made tryal of himself) had such good success, and behaved himself with such agility and strength, that he won the chiefest honour, and was presented before the Duke, to receive a rich reward.

Which when he had received, casting his eys upon the beholders, he espied Artesia (whom he perfectly knew again) ready to depart with her Parents, who had bidden the Duke farewel. Ornatus coming to Phylastes, asked if he knew that Damzel, shewing him Artesia, who told him what she was.

Ornatus was glad of that small knowledge, which could add little means to his hopes; yet remained somewhat discontented, that she was daughter to Arbastus. And thus the day being ended, every one departed to their several habitations.

Ornatus having again attained his Chamber, spent his time of rest in sundry cogitations of his love, and how he might have know-

knowledge of his affection, noting every danger, and pondering how discontentedly his parents would take the same, if it should by any means come to their knowledge, he apprehended so many lets to hinder him, that he was oftentimes in despair of attaining to the least hope of good success. But finding his affection to increase more and more, and burning with a fervent desire, which nothing but only her favour could extinguish he passed away many melancholly hours, labouring by all means possible, to arrive to the accomplishment of his desires.

After that night was past, early the next morning, he wandred towards the place where he had beheld her with such exceeding content; and by the way as he went he met with a Gentlewoman named Adellena, of mean birth, and small living yet of good education, who oftentimes resorted to Arbastus house, and was going thither at that instant: into whose company he insinuated himself, seeing her alone; and said as followeth.

Gentlewoman, I am bold to intreat a word or two with you. Sir (replied she) with a good will. I will satisfie you in what I can. Know you not (quoth he) Arbastus? I do (quoth she) both know him, and am very well acquainted with him, unto whose house I am now going. So would I (quoth he) if I durst; for I serve Ornatus, son to Allinus, whom I doubt not but you know, of whom I could speak more, but that I am unwilling to be so injurious, as to discover his secrets to one I know not; yet if you promise to be secret, and afford your help for to further him, (which you may with safety perform) you shall do him an exceeding pleasure; and withall be so highly rewarded, and thankfully gratified, that you shall think your labour very well employed, do a deed of pitty, and binde him in perpetual bands of kinde love and friendship.

Sir (replied Adellena) I know not the Gentleman, yet I have heard him very much commended, whom if I could any way pleasure, I would use both diligence and secresie, promising you upon my faith and credit, if you will make me acquainted with your minde, I will either do my good will to further him, or else conceal what you shall commit to my privity.

Then (said he) my Master not long since walking in yonder Valley beheld Artesia, fair Artesia Daughter to Arbastus, to whose beauty he is so exceedingly enthralled, that unless some means of comfort be found to ease his torments, I fear me it will endanger his life: whom yet onely you may pleasure, by making his love known to her, in such sort, as shall best agree with your wisdome. This is all, and yet so much that the revealing thereof may do much harm. And to effect such a contract, might procure Peace and Amity betwixt their Parents. Therefore I entreat your aid and furtherance herein: with which good news if I return to him, I know it will breed no little comfort to his disquieted heart.

Sir (said she) since I perceive his love is grounded upon vertue (not drawn thereto by any desire of reward) I undertake to be his assistant herein, and will to the uttermost of my best endeavours, labour to procure his content, which this day I will in some part begin to put in execution. And if you return to me to morrow, you shall know her answer. I will (said she) and so they departed.

Ornatus having left her, entred into many cogitations of this rash attempt, accounting himself over-credulous to commit his secrets to her privity, of whose fidelity he had never made trial; sometimes comforting himself with hope of good event, and again despairing of comfort, for that he supposed Artesia would rather esteem him as an Enemy then as a Friend, by reason of their Parents hatred, and therefore would the more hardly be drawn to give any credit to his sute. And revolving a Chaos of these and such like confused cogitations, he attained his Fathers house, thinking the time tedious until his appointed meeting with Adellena, who after her departure from him, soon arrived at Arbastus house, and using her self as she had formerly done, yet careful how to execute the charge she had in hand (which she could by no occasion utter till after dinner) she found Artesia all alone in the Garden, and having insinuated her self into her company, which Artesia kindly accepted, she entred into variety of discourses, and continued sometimes in giving

bing certain hearbs their proper names amongſt the reſt, Arteſia eſpying an hearb with party-coloured leaves, demanded of Adellena if ſhe knew the name thereof, which ſhe told her, ſhe did not. I have oftentimes (quoth Arteſia) ſæn this hearb, and it hath two pretty names; it is by ſome called Love in Idleneſs, and by others, Hearts-eaſe: with that Adellena fetcht a deep, though counterfeit ſigh, which Arteſia noting ſaid: What maketh you ſigh, to hear it named Hearts-eaſe? Marry (quoth ſhe) one way, becauſe thoſe two names ſo ill agree: another, for by the ſame I call to minde the hearts-grief I heard a young man complain of, procured by Love; which was not in Idleneſs, but I think in good earneſt. Why (quoth Arteſia) can Love procure ſuch hearts-grief to any, and not rather content? Yes ſaid ſhe) becauſe the party in love, hath no hope to attain the good liking of the party he loveth. Then quoth Arteſia, I account him a fool, that will love ſo deeply without hope of reward, and that to be rather fondneſs then true friendſhip, where affections are placed with ſuch inequalities. But I pray tell me, what is he into whoſe ſecrets you were ſo ſuddenly admitted? Not admitted (quoth ſhe) for unawares I heard his complaints which afterwards I promiſed him not to make any acquainted withall, but the party whom he ſo entirely loveth. Then (quoth Arteſia) I may not know, neither do I care, for it is but a vanity that troubleth ones cogitations. Yes (quoth ſhe) you may, and ſhall if you pleaſe, know who it is; conditionally you will neither be offended with me for telling you, nor reveal what I ſhal impart. Why quoth ſhe, am I the party, or doth it any way concern me, that I ſhould be offended? If it be, then keep your counſels unrevealed, for it will prove unſavoury to my ſtomach, for be it far from me, to be troubled with the vain ſutes of doting Lovers: yet let me anſwer (quoth Adellena) you bear too grievous a conceit of Love, which is the divine party whereby hearts are united in vertue. Without the which neither mortals can attain heaven, nor other creatures have their being, therefore not to be abhorred: and for that any ſhould love your ſelf, can that be any offence to you, but rather be accepted in kinde

ſort?

lost: We should by Nature love them that love us, then will you contrary to Nature, yield hatred for love: For you indeed are the party that is beloved, and the party that is so far in love with you every way to be commended, whose name I will forbear to reveal, and then I hope I shall give no offence to your chaste ears.

Do so (quoth Artesia) for concealing the same you will please me, and if you will be welcome into my company, use no more of these speeches. And I thought (quoth she) they would have been offensive, I would not have uttered them, but in so doing, I did but fulfil your request: then at my request again (quoth she) give over. After this communication ended, they parted; Adelena home to her house, and Artesia to her Supper, and afterwards to her Chamber; where at first some cold thoughts of these speeches past in her fancy, but afterwards she spent the rest of that Night in quiet sleep.

Chap. III.

How *Adelena* conveyed *Ornatus* Letter into *Artesias* Casket, and with what impatience *Artesia* took the same.

EArly at the approach of the next Morning, Ornatus (who with a greedy expectation waited for it) arose, and soon got to Adelenas house, where he arrived before she was up, who having knowledge thereof, soon came down to him (taking him to be no other then Ornatus his man) to whom she declared the very truth of all her speeches had with Artesia. Which nipt him at the heart; but receiving some hope by her perswasions, he gave her a purse full fraught with Gold, in recompence of her pains past: And to entice her to undertake more, he said as followeth.

Good Adelena, be not dismayed to prosecute my suite, for Artesias first frown, for I am not Ornatus man, but pur Ornatus himself,

himself, that languish with desire to attain her love, which I would my self prosecute, if the discord between our parents did not hinder the same. Therefore, I beseech you once again do something in my behalf, for you see how cruel destiny hath shut me from all means to be put in practise by my self, and you may pleasure me without any hazard at all: for which I will rest so thankful unto you, as that you shall account your pains taken well bestowed.

Sir, replied she, I would undertake any thing to further you, if I knew which way, but I perceive Artesia's frowardness is such, that nothing I shall bring her will be welcome: but if you will advise me what I shall do, I will once again hazard the loss of her good liking for your sake. Which said, Ornatus wrote a Letter, which he desired her by some means to convey to her sight, the contents whereof were these.

To the faireſt Artesia.

FAireſt of Creatures, be not offended with my boldneſs, but rather favourably cenſure of my good meaning; for being bound to honour none but moſt vertuous, I thought it my duty to give you knowledge thereof, deſiring you to pitty the extremity of my paſsions, procured by the attainder of your conquering perfections. I confeſs you may alledge many things, as reaſons to diſſwade you from giving credit to my ſpeeches, or yeilding me the leaſt favour in your concerts: Yet I beſeech you, make but trial of my Loyalty, Love, and Duty, ſo farre as ſhall agree with your liking, and you ſhall finde me conſtant in the one, and perſeverant in the other; as one that hath ſubmitted himſelf to your command, vowed his devotions to purchaſe your favor, and everlaſtingly bound himſelf to be only yours: unable to expreſs my humble meaning, unwilling to be offenſive, and deſirous of favour. I beſeech you to be favourable to me, though bearing the name of an Enemy; in whom you ſhall finde the true heart of a conſtant friend, whoſe ſafety, comfort, and preſervation, reſteth in your power. The firſt view of your

beauty (which was in the Valley when you were last Hunting) surprized my heart with such humble regard to your Vertues, that ever since my heart hath endured the bitter torments of fearful despair, which urgeth me to this presumption; desiring from your sacred lips to receive my sentence of comfort or affliction, rather then to spend my life in languishing, by an unrevealed torment. Then be you gracious to him, that is otherwise most miserable; and shew favour to an undeserving unknown Friend: So shall you not onely shew, that you are merciful, but also save a miserable Lover from utter ruine.

Your Humble Friend:

ORNATUS.

Adellena having received this Letter, told him, she would deliver the same: which the next day she performed in this sort. Being come to Arbastus House, she continued most part of the day in Artesias company, not once renuing the least remembrance of the talk she had with her the day before: but espying her open her Casket, wherein she put her work, whilest Artesia was busie, she privily conveyed the Letter unseen into the same; which by and by Artesia locked, for none but her self had the use thereof.

Adellena thought the time tedious til she had taken her leave, fearing lest Artesia should upon some occasion open the Casket again, and so finde the Letter while she was there: Therefore she soon found means to depart. When the appointed time of rest was come, and Artesia alone in her Bed, she took a Book (according to her usual manner) to reade awhile, she suddenly fell asleep, and in her sleep was possest with a dream, wherein her thoughts called to remembrance Adellenaes speeches; which moved such a disquiet conceit of anger in her Breast, that thinking she had chid her, with the motions of her spirit she awaked, feeling a distemperature in all her parts

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and seeing the light still burning, she marvelled at her drowsiness, that had before forgot to put the same out; and by this meanes called to remembrance Adellenaes speeches, marvelling what he should be that was so in love with her, and suddenly again reproving her self, for giving her minde liberty to think of love, she would have banisht all further remembrance therof out of her minde: But the more she laboured the more unable she was to prevail in ovet-mastering her fancies, that being both vexed with her self, and also with Adellena, she uttered these speeches.

What disquiet is this possesseth my heart, and procureth such unwonted cogitations to rise in my fancies, and disturbeth my rest? I was not wont to trouble my thoughts with such vain cogitations, which the more I labour to suppress, the more they increase.

Could Adellenaes speeches have such force (which I had well nigh forgotten) as thus long to stick in my remembrance? Or, what reason have I to regard them, that were not worthy the regarding, but rather tended to demonstrate the affection of some over-fond Lover, that seeketh to entrap my Chastity? May her lips be hereafter silent for uttering them, and would I had been deaf at that time and not heard their inchanting sound.

This said, she catcht up her Book, thinking by reading, to drive away all remembrance thereof, but her heart was so fully possest with a kinde of a cogitation what he should be, that she neither could read, or when she had read, remember what she did read: and finding this means not available, she started from her Bed opening the Casket to take out her Sampler, wherein she took most delight, when suddenly she espied the Letter, and reading the superscription, was half astonished thereat, especially how it should come there, and what the Contents should be, being oftentimes in minde to tear the same in pieces, and not reade it, which her heart would not suffer her to do, before she had seen what was the Contents: Yet striving to overmaster her affections, she tare the same in the middest:

which done, such a remorse rose in her fancy, united with a desire to know further thereof, that leaping into the bed, she closed the same together, and betwixt a willing and unwilling minde, read the same throughout. With that, fetching a deep sigh she said: Ah my poor soul, how are my affections betrayed to mine Enemy? Was it Ornatus she meant: can it be, that he will prove my friend, that is my professed Enemy? O no, he intendeth nothing lesse then love, but rather under colour thereof seeketh my ruine. Was it he, that I beheld in the Valley? Or is it possible he should be so deeply in love with me, upon that small sight? No, no, I will not credit his speeches, but still repute him as an Enemy as indeed he is; and henceforth abandon Adellenas company, by whose means this Letter was conveyed into my Casket: then tearing the same into a thousand pieces, she abstained (so near as she could) from all thought of yelding the least consent to love, and sought to increase her disdain and suspect of his falshood, spending the rest of that night in confused contrarieties of doubtful thoughts. Early in the morning she gate up, and within short time met with Adellena (who was come, and desirous to know what issue her device had taken) and finding occasion fit, when none was by, she uttered these speeches.

Adellena, I marvel what folly ruleth your minde, that you (whom I had thought had been so vertuously given) should seek my ruine: wherein have I shewn my self so discourteous, that you should requite me in this unworthy manner? You remember the speeches past betwixt us the other day in the Garden, when I finding out your intent by your speeches, desired you to give over to use any more talk to that effect; which you faithfully promised, but now most unfaithfully have broken, and more impudently have betrayed my quiet with your disquiet, and ill-sounding news: if your rudenesse hath been such, that you would not desist, you might then have delivered Ornatus false and feigned inchantment into my hands, and not so secretly have conveyed the same into my Casket: wherein you have made me amends for my love, in seeking to betray my life

into

into the hands of mine Enemy: for otherwise, I neither can nor will esteem him. Therefore hencefoorwards come no more into my company, for I forswear your familiarity, hate your counsel, and will cause my Father banish you his house, and alienate his friendship from you for ever.

Adellena would have answered; but Artesia refusing to hear her, departed: and left her so much grieved, that for extream vexation she immediately departed towards her own house.

Chap. IV.

How *Ornatus* despairing, left his fathers house: and disguising himself, was entertained of *Arbastus*.

Ornatus desirous to hear how Artesia had accepted his letter, came to Adellenaes house, and found her weeping for anger: desiring to know the cause thereof, which she declared to him at large: Which wrought such an exceeding passion of grief in his minde, that without yeilding her either thanks for her pains, or other speech, he departed: Being so much overcome with inward sorrow, that finding a solitary place, he laid himself down upon the earth, uttering these lamentations.

O miserable Caitif! what hast thou to do but lament when thy ill fortune yeilds nothing but cause of lamentation? Why should thy life last to endure these torments, and not rather to dissolve into unseen essences? Could any thing have hapned to me more miserable, then to behold Artesia, and now to endure her cruelty? Or more fortunate, if she had been merciful? But my Destinies have drawn me, to like her that hateth me, and to come a thrall to a cruel unrelenting Enemy. Well, my love is sweeter then my life; and therefore I will venture life and all, to purchase her liking.

Having said this, he a while sate silent, when suddenly to farther his extremities, he beheld certain of his familiars pass by, with whom he departed home.

Early the next morning, being exceedingly troubled in minde, and impatient of delay, he left his fathers house to visit Adellena again, whom he had the day before left so unkindely: whom he found ready to go to Arbastus house, and saluting her, said: Adellena be not offended at my last unmannerly departure, for my heart was so much disquieted at the ill success my sute took, that I could not use that behaviour towards you that your pains deserved: but now I am returned to ask your counsel what is further to be done herein.

Sir, replied she, I know not what further means to use, neither dare I any more attempt to try Artesias courtesie; who is already so much offended with me, that I fear I shall lose her friendship for ever, if I should utter that again, that is so unwelcome to her.

Ornatus hearing her speeches, thought she was unwilling to prosecute his sute any further, and with a heavy heart left her; entring into many thoughts, which way to comfort himself, oftentimes utterly despairing: But at the last, he resolved to leave no means unattempted, nor danger unessayed (though with hazard of his life) to procure some rest to his oppressed and grieved spirit.

Then he began to think with himself, what should make Artesia so hard hearted, as to give no credit to his speeches? It is not her want of lenity, pitty or wisdome: for she is Young, and therefore subject to love; Beautiful, and therefore to be won; Wise, and therefore will with consideration pitty my sorrows. What then should alienate her good liking from me more then any other? My Name: For by that, she reputeth me an Enemy: Then if I were not Ornatus, she would peradventure respect me, and give some regard to my sute. Therefore I will change my name, and seem to be what I am not, that she not knowing me, may (if not love me) yet desist to hate me. Then began he to study, what means to use to enjoy her sight

sight (without which he could not live) and yet not be known what he was. Amongst many other devices, this took deepest root. Within few days after (having provided all things necessary) he attired himself like a virgin of a strange country) which he might well be esteemed to be by his youth) and taking with him his Lute, whereon he could play exceeding well, in the silent of the night, he departed towards the Sea-coast, which was near unto Arbastus house, and seating himself upon the rocky shore, began to play upon his Lute. Early the next morning, a Shepheard happened to passe by that way, and espying his strange disguise, and hearing of his sweet musick, was so exceedingly delighted therewith, that he stayed to see what he was.

Ornatus turning himself about, espied the old man stand gazing upon him: Wherewith he drew towards him, and said as followeth.

Good Father muse not to see me in this unfrequented place, being by shipwrack cast on this shore and preserved from a grievous death by Sea to perish for want of comfort on the Land, in a strange place, where I neither have friends, nor know which way to get comfort: Therefore I beseech you, yeild comfort to my distress, and succour to my want. Fair Damzel (quoth the Shepheard) if my homely Cottage can afford you any comfort, so please you to accept therof, it shall be at your command, whither so please you go, without more circumstance of speeches, you shall be most heartily welcome. I thank you (quoth Ornatus) and I accept your gentle proffer: so they departed together. And when they were entred and the Shepheardess in the best manner she could had welcommed him, and he had tasted of such food as was set before him, he told them his Name was Silvia, relating some circumstances sufficient to countenance the manner of their Shipwrack, shewing reasons why he undertook that Voyage by sea: Which the old folks believed. Likewise framing himself to such a kinde of behaviour, that it was almost impossible to discern, but that he was a woman indeed.

Where

Where Silvia (for under that name he shall a while passe) stayed some two dayes, yet without any hope how to enjoy Artesias company. But the third day it fortuned Arbastus being abroad in hunting, was by a violent storm driven to seek shelter, and most fortunately lighted on the Shepheards Cottage: where he boldly entred without calling, and suddenly espying Silvia, was half astonished to behold a Damzel so beautiful and richly attired, in that homely place: but after that he had a while viewed her well (Silvia being alone) with a courteous behaviour he thus spake.

Fair Damzel, pardon my boldnesse, if I have disquieted you: I little thought to have found such guests in this homely place. Silvia knowing him to be Arbastus, arose, but made him no answer: when presently the old Shepheard came in, using great reverence to Arbastus: who demanded of him, what Damzel that was? Whereupon the Old man declared all that he knew.

Arbastus then thus said: Damzel, I understand by this Shepheard, some part of your misfortunes, which I so much pitty, that I offer to do any thing resteth in me, to do you pleasure: And for that this homely place is not agreeable to your birth, which may be greater then I can judge of, let me desire you to accept of such entertainment, as my habitation yeelds, whither you shall be welcome. Silvia being glad of that proffer, yet fearing to be discovered by her willingness to yeild, made this answer. Sir, this homely place is best agreeing to my poor estate, being by my fortune brought to misery, which I am also unworthy of, for that I know not how to make my good amends, desiring rather to live in this quiet place, void of care, then in places of more dignity: but for that I shall be too chargeable to this poor man, and you so earnestly desire me. I will be so bold as to take your proffer, though unable to be grateful as I would. Many other speeches passed between them, and in the end they repaired towards Arbastus Castle; where Silvia was kindely and worthily entertained, having his hearts desire: which was to enjoy the sight of Artesia.

Ornatus

Ornatus being alone by himself, began to meditate on the good success he had in this attempt, and how fortunately all things had fain out to further him in his love. But especially, he marvelled how the eyes of all that beheld him should become so purblinde, that they could not perceive what he was. In these and many such like comfortable meditations, he spent some three or four days, taking such great content in beholding Artesias perfections, that he was more and more inthralled in the bands of vowed affection, by hearing of her speech, noting her behaviour, admiring her vertue, commending her courtesie, affecting her beauty, and imprinting each lineament of her divine form in his devoted affection, with such immoveable resolves of constant loyalty, that he did not only love her, but also honor her as an Idol; enjoying her company at all times by Arbastus command. Artesia likewise took no little pleasure in Silviaes company, in whom so much courtesie abounded, that every one both liked and commended her.

Chap. V.

How *Adellena* brought news to *Arbastus* house of *Ornatus* sudden departure. How he naming himself *Silvia*, a long time enjoyed her company; and what success he had in his love.

Adellena having now heard of Ornatus departure from his Fathers house, and of the exceeding grief and care his parents took, fearing lest he might by some treachery be murthered, she brought the news to Arbastus House, and soon published the same: Which came to Arbastus his hearing, who was grieved exceedingly to hear the same, for that he esteemed very well of Ornatus. And now comming into the Garden where Artesia was walking with Silvia, Adellena

with-hold her self from speaking but uttered her mind thus.

Artesia be not offended with what I say, but rather be displeased with your self, who are the original of this woe. Ornatus whom you supposed your Enemy, though indeed your most faithfull Friend, taking your unkinde refusall most heavily, and accounting himself not worthy to live if you despised him, either hath wrought his own untimely death, or despairing to finde favour at your hands, hath abandoned both his Parents, Countrey, and acquaintance, to live in exile. What will be said of you, when the cause of his sorrow shall be known? How may your own conscience accuse your self of hard-heartedness, that would not yeild pitty to the distress of so worthy, vertuous, and courteous a Gentleman, who for his humble sute, was spitefully disdained, and his hearty good will disdainfully rejected? Which cruel déed of yours, no doubt will one day be repaid with the like disdain, where you shall most affect. I know his love was firm, constant, and immoveable, which maketh me so much the more pitty his estate: I know his meaning was both honourable and vertuous: His birth you know. What vertues abounded in him all can witness; and how heartily he loved you, the heavens can witness. Your Ornatus farewel: Hard was thy hap to place thy true love so firmly, where thou reapedst so little reward. Artesia hearing her speeches, could not tell whether she might blame her, or accuse her self: sometimes doubting whether she spoke this of policy to try her, or of truth, being as ready to blame her, as to accuse her self, sometimes doubting either: For she thought, if she spake true, she had good cause to say that she did, and her self more to be blamed then any. For notwithstanding she had given Adellena so flat a denial, yet her conscience knew that some sparks of love were kindled in her breast. Insomuch that her heart being somewhat oppressed wth those thoughts, caused the water to stand in her eys. Ornatus seeing all this, took no little comfort thereat, especially when he perceived Artesias heart to relent: But by reason of this disguise, being known for no other then a woman, he kept silence when

when fain he would have spoken but feared lest he should discover himself. Adellena seeing she had disquieted Artesia, being her self ful of grief, and unwilling to urge any further, departed. And Artesia withdrawing her self from Silvias company into an Arbour, uttered these speeches. And can it be that Ornatus love was so great, that for my sake he hath done this? Could he love her so constantly that was his professed enemy? Is love of such a force to draw one into these extreams? Then may I compare it to the hearb Artas found in Persia, which being but holden in the hand, causeth a heat throughout all the body; So love, entertained but in thought, disquieteth all the senses. But why do I conceive so wel of Ornatus, when I know not the truth of Adellenaes report? It may be he hath hired her to do this, and thereby I may be deceived, yeilding to pitty when there is no cause; like the Bird Acanthus ready to come at every call. Admit it were so, I am not bound to favor him; for he is my enemy, and son to my fathers chiefest foe: What reason then have I either to give credit to his love, or her protestation, when both may be feigned? Well, I will be advised before I yeild my self to loves intangling baits and before I love, I will know whom I love. I but Artesia, thy fancy yeildeth remorse already, and thy conscience bids thee pitty him, because he loveth thee; For love in a reputed Enemy, may be as constant and loyal as in an open Friend; and an Enemy becomming a Friend, will be the more constant: Then what hast thou to do, but to make further proof of his constancy, and finding him true, yeild reward to his desert. Soft Artesia, wade not too far: grant he be constant, loyal, and love thee so intirely; yet now thou hast made him forsake his country, & peradventure hast procured his untimely death, there is nothing else to be done by thee but to pitty his death, and accuse thy self of this great discourtesie. All this while Ornatus shrowding himself from her sight by the thickness of the green leaves, heard her speeches, to his exceeding comfort, and again closely withdrew himself. Artesia having ended her speeches, her heart being oppress with many doubts, arose and came to Silvia, to whom she said: My minde is troubled with the news

Adellena told me of Ornatus absence, whom for that you know not, I will tell you what he was.

There dwelleth not far hence one Allinus, that mortally hateth my father, and all that belong unto him, whose son Ornatus was, whom if I should commend, you might think me too cruel to refuse his love so unkindely; only thus much I will say of him, he was every way worthy to be beloved, though my fancy could never be drawn to like of him: who upon what occasion I know not, but as Adellena told me, made his love known to her, which she likewise told me of; but I refusing to hear her, answered, that I was greatly offended with her, for making any such motion, prohibiting her to speak of him hereafter. But now this day you have heard what she hath told me, which I can hardly believe to be true, or that Ornatus would be so rash without wisdome to enter into such extreams. But if it be so (as I would it were not) it grieveth me for him, and I wish that I had not refused to hear his sute, though I am not willing to yeild thereto: for I would not have it said of me, nor have my name so much blazed, that my cruelty procured him that extremity; though his wisdome might have foreseen such mischief, and more moderately have tempered his love.

Ornatus taking occasion, said; I neither know the Gentleman nor how constant his love was, but thus much my minde perswadeth me, that had not his love been great, he would not have grieved so much at your unkindness: but love is of this force that it turneth the minde into extreams, or utterly breaketh the heart; which force belike it had in him, else would he not have done himself so much harm. But it may be (as you say) Ornatus hath not done himself out rage, but only abandoning company, liveth in despair, and so meaneth to die; which if it be so, then in my opinion, you might do well to let him by some means understand that you do pity him. Stay there, quoth Arcetta, you must first know whether I can do it, or no: for if I should say, I pity with my lips, and he not finde it so, it would drive him to more despair: and therefore I will leave all to do that, until I can finde whether I can do it or no.

Then

These her ſpeeches drave Ornatus into a perplexed doubt what to think, being no way assured of her love, nor yet utterly despairing thereof; for that her speeches gave likelihood of both. Therefore he durst not speak too boldly, lest she should suspect him but only rested in good hope to finde comfort, and by other means to try her.

There taking his Lute, he plaid so sweetly thereon, as would have ravisht a comfortless minde, with great content; to hear which Harmony pleased Arteſia so well, that when he left, she would request him, calling him Silvia, to play again. Whilest he sate playing, Arteſia sitting close by his side, fell fast asleep: which he perceiving, left off his play, to surfeit himself with beholding her sweet beauty, in which he took such delight, as almost ravisht his sences; sometimes thinking whilest she slept to imprint a kiss upon her sweet ruddy lip, but fearing thereby to awake her, and lose that delightful contemplation, he desisted: Beholding each part of her visible form, which was most divine, his minde was affected with inward contemplation, what perfection her hidden beauties did comprehend, which his fancy perswaded him he did absolutely contemplate. Then seeing her stir, he suddenly caught his Lute again, striking his sweet Notes to continue her in that slumber, and then again laying by the same, to enter into his former contemplation; he compared his delight to exceed all humane felicity; and wishing (though Arteſia could not love him, yet) that she would always grant him so to behold her.

When he had a good while continued in these Meditations, Arteſia awoke, which somewhat grieved him; but when he beheld her beauteous eyes fixed upon him, he thought himself enriched with a heavenly happiness: To whom Arteſia said: I thank thee good Silvia, for thy sweet Musick hath somewhat eased my heart, by this quiet sleep. O what content do they enjoy, that live void of care: and how happy was I, before I heard Ornatus Name? With that she arose, and they together went in; When Night approached, (which Ornatus thought to come too soon, for by that, he must

siaes sight) every one betook themselves to their several Lodgings.

Ornatus, studying what means to use, to further his love, wherein he found many difficulties: sometimes, in thinking Artesia was in hope never to hear of him again; and sometimes supposing she did pitty him. And being overcome with contrarieties of doubts, he uttered these complaints:

What should I do to procure my content: when my miseries are one way great, and my joyes as exceeding; when my despair exceedeth, and yet my comfort aboundeth? I enjoy Artesiaes love, and yet not her love; I enjoy her sight, and yet not her sight: I have as much comfort, as filleth me with joy, and yet I am desperate with despair. How can that be? She loveth me as I am Silvia, but hateth me because she loveth not Ornatus: Under the name of Silvia, I enjoy her sight, but not as Ornatus; and so am I deprived of her sight: I reap exceeding comfort by beholding her beauty, but I live in despair lest she would shun Love, if she knew what I were. Though I enjoy many things as being Silvia, yet am I deprived of all comfort, as being Ornatus: For she deemeth him either dead, or fled, having no hope ever to see him: and if I should shew any signe that he were living, or near, she would presently eschew my company: which, being as I am, I may enjoy. And thus am I void of all means of attaining her love; yet living, as I am, I shall still enjoy her love.

Why Ornatus thou hast better meanes to give her knowledge of thy love in this disguise, then if thou lovedst as Ornatus. Suppose thou shouldest make known to her what thou art, thinkest thou she would betray thee: considering thou offerest no other behaviour towards her, then that which agreeth with vertue? Or what if she did betray thee? Wert thou not better to endure the greatest extremity by her done, then pine away with grief in her absence? Yes Ornatus, in being as thou art, thou art more happy, and therefore mayst thou be in some better hope of comfort. What if she will not love thee? Yet for thy good will she cannot hate thee: And

though

though ſhe know what thou art, ſhe will rather conceal thee, then bewray thee. Then try whether ſhe loveth thee, or no: but how? Make my ſelf known? No, I will write a Letter, which I will leave in ſome place where ſhe may finde it, and by that means I ſhall ſée whether ſhe will love or no. And taking pen, ink, and paper, he writ as followeth.

To the moſt Vertuous Arteſia; *the Forſaken* Ornatus *ſendeth Humble Greeting.*

WEre you but ſo merciful as fair, I would not deſpair of pitty; Or were you willing to know my truth and loyalty, you would (though not yeild to my ſute, yet) pitty me. I cannot uſe proteſtations, nor diſſemble grief: but be you moſt aſſured, that what proceedeth out of my Lips, commeth from my heart. Extremity maketh me over-bold, and deſpair maketh me more deſperate in uttering my minde: I cannot chuſe but ſay I love you, for that I love indeed. I cannot ſet forth my love with filed termes, but in plain truth proteſt; that my love is conſtant, loyal, vertuous, and immoveable; and though you hate, yet I muſt love; and though you for ever deny to love, yet will I perſiſt in conſtancy; for the worſt I can endure is death, and that my ſoul already inwardly feeleth. I have forſaken my Parents, Friends, and all, to become acceptable unto you: whileſt I was *Allinus* ſon, you did hate me; then I beſeech you, now that I am not *Allinus* ſon, nor *Ornatus*, pitty me. For without your pitty I dye, and little can my death profit you; But letting me live, you ſhall for ever enjoy a faithful ſervant. So moſt vertuous *Arteſia*, I commit my cauſe to your wiſe conſideration.

Yours inſeparably, neither Ornatus *nor himſelf, but your poor Servant.*

When

When he had written this Letter, and sealed the same, the next morning he laid it in a place of the Garden, where he knew Artesia would walk: and from thence comming to her chamber, he found her ready to go forth.

Artesia welcommed Silvia kindely, and forth they went together, and walking up and down a pretty while, Artesia espied the white paper, and desirous to see what it was took it up reading the Superscription, marvelled what the contents should be, and how it should come there; and turning to Silvia, said; See you this Letter? it is directed to me, I marvel how it should come here, unless it were laid of purpose: well, howsoever it be, I will reade the contents and you shall be partaker of them. When she had read the same, and well understood that it was Ornatus, at the first, she was so vexed, that she said: I now perceive that Ornatus was wiser then I took him to be; for I see he hath committed no outrage upon himself, but wisely will try me first: and if I will not yeild to love him, what will he do? Marry return to his father again. This is Adellenaes doing, and according as I thought, they are agreed; she left this Letter here, and her I may blame and not him. For had not she promised him to do it, he would never of himself have attempted it. Silvia I pray thee counsel me what I should do herein, for my heart is oppressed with many thoughts, that I will not utter until I know thy minde.

Silvia thus answered: Madam, since it is your pleasure to grant me license to deliver my minde, take it briefly thus: first I say, if Ornatus loveth according as he protesteth, as no doubt he doth, you have good reason to pity him; for that by your own report, he is every way worthy thereof: which if you do, you shall be sure of a constant Friend, be a means to preserve his life, and make Unity betwixt your Parents. As for Adellena, (if it were her deed) she did but the part of a Friend: but it is very unlikely, for she was not here since yesterday. Neither can I think any man so impious as to dissemble so much, and to make such protestations, and falsifie them: for his words (in my fancy) bear an evident likelihood of truth. Therefore

if

if I may counsel you, yeild to that which is vertuous, and in so doing you shall purchase your own good, his content, and perpetual quiet to both your families.

Would you have me then (quoth she) yeild to love mine enemy? How is he your enemy (quoth Silvia) when he loveth you? He is mine enemy, because his father hating me, how can he love me? Nay rather (quoth Silvia) his father not loving you, how can he chuse but love you, because he seeth them hate you, that are worthy to be beloved? Besides, their hatred being untust, it sheweth his vertue the more, to love those his Parents hate: And it is commonly seen, where there is hatred betwixt the Parents, the children have loved most dearly as in common experience it is seen: Have you not read the Histories of Pyramus and Thisby, Romeo and Juliet, and many other; whose love was the more constant, by so much more their parents hatred was deadly.

I remember such Histories (quoth Artesia) but what was the end of their love: was it not most miserable? I grant it was (quoth Silvia) but their misfortune was procured by their parents cruelty, but not their love; wherein notwithstanding they took such felicity, that they rather chose to die together than to be parted: which argueth that the enmity betwixt Parents, cannot break off the love betwixt their children: yet might such Tragical events have been easily prevented by wisdome. But how shall I know (said Artesia) whether Ornatus love be so constant or no? Can you have any greater proof thereof then his own Letters, the forsaking of his Parents, and living peradventure in penury? But if you doubt of that, once again try him. Well (said Artesia) I asked but thy counsel, but instead thereof thou usest perswasion: but seeing thou act so forward to do me good, which I hope is thy intent, if thou wilt keep my counsel thou shalt know both my minde, and what I intend. Assure your self (qd. Silvia) I will rather lose my life, then prove unfaithful. Then (said she) I confess to thee Silvia, that love hath made entrance into my heart, that I would willingly both pity Ornatus, and grant his request:

for that with often remembring him, I cannot forget him, neither doth any thought please me, but when I think of him. But there are so many slips to hinder our love, that though I love him, I shall never enjoy him.

For should my Parents know thereof, they would pry so warily into my actions, that it were impossible for me once to have a sight of him; whom I do scarce remember, I have so seldome seen him. You may (qd. Silvia) both love him, and enjoy him: and since you have begun to like of him, he being worthy thereof, and equalling you in affection, increase that love; and might I but once come to speak with him, I would not doubt but to effect all things with such sincerity, that you should with quiet enjoy him.

Well (quoth Artesia) I commit all to you, my life, for that dependeth on my love, being willing to do any thing that shall not disagree with modesty: Desiring you to keep my counsels secret; for to bewray them may endanger both his and my life.

After many other speeches past betwixt them, Adellena entred the Garden. Artesia espying her at the first thus greeted her, Good-morrow Adellena, I know not whether I may salute thee as a friend, or a privy foe, for by thy means I am brought into bondage.

I pray thee tell me without dissembling (which I fear me thou canst do too well) when thou sawest Ornatus? And yet I know thy answer before I ask. Wost thou not know this letter? Didst thou not bide it in this Garden, that I might find it? Did not Ornatus hire thee to say, that he was departed from his Fathers house while he lieth at home in thy house? I know thy answer will be no, but how may I believe thee? Wost thou not likewise say he loveth me, when thou knowest the contrary, and wost but dissemble? If thou harbourest any vertue in thee, tell me the truth, and dissemble not; for in so doing thou shalt greatly content me, discharge thy conscience, and peradventure do Ornatus a good turn.

Adellena hearing her speeches, was so astonished at their

ſtrangeneſs, that for a good while ſhe ſtood as one ſenceleſs: but at the laſt ſhe made this anſwer. Your demands are ſuch, as that I know not how to anſwer them; but heavens puniſh me if I diſſemble: I ſaw not Ornatus ſince the time he came to me, to know how you accepted the letter which I conveyed into your Casket. For that letter, I am altogether ignorant, neither did I ever ſee the ſame before now: I never ſpake with Ornatus, ſaw Ornatus, or heard from him ſince I laſt gave him your anſwer; neither know I where he is: But this I know, that he is not to be found: but poor Gentleman languiſheth in love. And I dare proteſt, he loveth you moſt dearly: neither need you miſdoubt that he is abſent, or hidden at my houſe; for it is too true he hath taken ſuch grief at your unkindneſs, as will I fear me, endanger his life.

I would it were not ſo, but that he were at my houſe; then would I counſel him rather to forget to love, then endanger his life thereby.

May I believe (quoth Arteſia) that this thou ſayeſt is true, Heavens let me live no longer (quoth Adellena) if I diſſemble. Then (quoth Arteſia) how ſhould this letter be conveyed into this Garden, but by himſelf? With that the chryſtal tears fell from her eys.

Chap. VI.

How *Ornatus* love was hindered by the news of *Arbaſtus* death. How *Floretus*, to attain *Silviaes* love, both confeſſed he ſlew *Arbaſtus*, and intended to poiſon *Arteſia*.

AUgment Arteſias tears, a Meſſenger haſtily running, came in and brought this news, uttering the ſame with a very ghaſtly countenance.

O Arteſia hear my tragick diſcourſe, your father (as you know) rode forth this morning to chaſe the fearful Deer, who wandring from his company, at laſt by his long

long stay was mist, and all of us coming together, studied amongst our selves what should become of him: at last we were commanded by Florentus your Uncle, to post several wayes in search of him; whom at last we found most grievously wounded and dead. Artesia hearing his words, with sudden grief fell down dead. Which when Silvia perceived, he caught her in his arms, rubbing her pale cheeks until she was revived again. Then they conveyed her to her Bed, in such extremity (with that sudden grief) that they feared the loss of her life: Which exceedingly tormented Silvia to behold. Then was there such an uproar in Arbastes house, as all seemed in utter despair, one conjecturing this, another that, of Arbastus death: But all in general concluding, that it was done by Allinus in revenge of his brothers death.

Arbastus Wife likewise conceived such sorrow at this unexpected event, that with grief thereof she died. Artesia also with both of them, was ready to yeild up her latest breath; and had done so, had she not been carefully preserved by Silvia, and Adellena: Who by their counsels and endeavours, pacified the extremity of her perplexity. This newes was soon spread into most places of the Country: but because there was no just proof of the Murtherer, there was no great question made thereof. Arbastus having never a trusty Friend to prosecute revenge, Floretus now took upon him to rule and govern all the estate that belonged to Arbastus, as his brother, and soon caused him and his Lady to be worthily interred, and built a sumptuous Monument in remembrance of them. Which being over-past, he came again to Artesia, (as in the mean time he had oftentimes done) and finding her very weak used many speeches to comfort her, giving unto as were about her special charge to minister all things necessary, to restore her to her former health: Seeming to be most careful of her Guard; promising and protesting to be unto her in stead of a Father.

Silvia all this while was exceedingly grieved in minde, to see his Mother so weak, and in such danger of her life:

not once forsaking her with all the time of her sickness, but continually comforting her with hearty speeches, and careful attendance; not so much as once departing her Chamber, but taking exceeding pains to pleasure her: that she took great delight in her supposed Silvia. Who oftentimes would steal a sweet kiss from Artesias lips, which she permitted, taking the same to proceed from a courteous minde, when Silvia did it of deep affection; accounting that estate wherein he lived, to exceed all other felicity, and his happiness incomparable: proffering many familiarities, all which Artesia took in good part, which otherwise she would have refused, had she known who her companion Silvia had been.

Ornatus marvelled much, that in all this time she spake not of him; which he devised to urge her to do, by many occasions: But these extremities had banished all remembrance of him quite out of her minde which exceedingly tormented Ornatus, fearing this delay would some way have turned to his ill: that whereas before time he was very pleasant and merry, and oftentimes would move Artesia to mirth by his disport: now that humour was alienated, and he became continually melancholy and sad: Oftentimes (when Artesia was from him) he would get into a solitary place to bewail his hard Fortune. Which she noted, and wondred at; thinking the same had proceeded from being so long absent from his country and friends. One day she found her supposed Silvia solitarily alone and coming unawares, heard her utter these words: Oh how unhappy am I, to love, and not to be beloved! Silvia espying her, left off, to whom Artesia said:

Why how now Silvia, are you in love? Can it be, that your minde is attainted with that venemous serpent, that poysoneth the Sences, altereth the Complexion, troubleth the Head and heart? Shake it off, and cast it out of your sight: for it never did any good, but hath brought many to perpetual misery.

Madam, since you have over-heard me (quoth Silvia) I must needs confess I am in love, which hath not any way caused

any ſuch effect in me, as you ſpeak of: but I take all comfort therein; my ſenſes, heart, head and all my parts, take exceeding pleaſure therein. Why then (quoth Artesia) ſit you thus penſively alone, as if you bewaild your being in love? I do not (qd. Silvia) grieve that I am in love, but that I am not beloved again: for I have vowed to live in love for ever, and ſooner will loſe my life, then forget my love, for my love and life ſhall end together. What hard-hearted man is he (ſaid Artesia) that knowing you love him, will not love again? Such is my condition (ſaid Silvia) that the party whom I love knoweth it, and yet cauſeleſly doth hate me; neither am I far abſent from my beloveds company, without which my life would decay. Is he in this houſe you love? Is it poſſible you ſhould be intangled ſince you came hither? No (ſaid Silvia) I loved before I came hither. How can that be, when you are a ſtranger, and caſt in this country by ſhipwrack? Either you muſt needs be ſome other then we take you for, otherwiſe theſe things are impoſſible. But if you dare put truſt in my ſecrecy, impart your minde to me, and I promiſe you I will do the beſt I can to further your love. You may do much therein (quoth Silvia) and none more then your ſelf; but I beſeech you pardon me for revealing the ſame before you aſſure me of one thing, which you may do without any harm to your ſelf: and be not offended with me if I ask you. Tell me what it is (quoth ſhe) and I will anſwer you. Then (ſaid Silvia) I would firſt know whether you love Ornatus, or otherwiſe? With that ſhe ſtarted, ſaying: Ah me, that name bringeth death to my heart, and thou woundeſt my ſoul with grief to hear him named. Doeſt thou think I have cauſe to love and not rather abhor all men to hate him? Doeſt thou not ſee my Father lately murthered by him, or ſome by his appointment? and thinkeſt thou I can love ſo deadly a foe, by whom I am brought to this miſery? No, aſſure thy ſelf, Silvia, according as I have juſt cauſe, I do hate and abhor him as the greateſt enemy I have, whoſe very name affrighteth me with terror: and if thou hadſt loved me, as I was perſwaded thou didſt, thou wouldeſt not have troubled my heart with that ominous

name.

name. And yet for all this mischief that he hath done me, didst thou not see how he sued for my love, and had so much prevailed, that my heart began to yeild to his sute? With that she pulled out of her pocket the Letter, saying: These lines, the fruits of his dissimulation, were actors in the villany of my fathers murther; with that she tore them in a thousand peices.

Silvia seeing the same, was ready to sound with grief, and breaking forth a heart-burning sigh said: O how is poor Innocency suspected! And being ready to say more, was disappointed by Floretus comming, who even then entred the Garden: and finding them out, used many courteous speeches to them both, especially comforting Artesia; to whom he said: Dear cousin, since these mishaps cannot be remedied, let wisedome now oversway your passionate sorrow, and with patience remit all further grief; for these things past cure are not to be lamented: but now commit the care of your safety to my trustiness, that will as tenderly regard your good, as mine own life. Therefore be of comfort, and whatsoever you desire shall be to the uttermost accomplished. Artesia yeilded him many thanks, and so they went in.

Artesia being alone by her self, could by no means forget what speech she had with Silvia: either thinking she did dissemble or was some other then she seemed; or else that she was in love with Floretus. Then she remembred her speeches saying; How is Innocency suspected! which she knew she spake, by her accusing of Ornatus: which drave her into many doubtful cogitations, and troubled her senses exceedingly: but by reason of her little suspect of Silviaes disguise, she could not judge any thing thereof. Silvia likewise not daring to offend her, and loving her so dearly that he could not endure to see her disquieted, used no more speeches tending to love, but frequenting her company, wherein he took his whole felicity, he accounted himself most happy, to live and enjoy her sweet presence, being out of hope to attain her love, refreshing his heart with many solaces of sweet delight, in beholding that which she little thought he observed.

Many days continued Silvia in this disguise: in which time Arbastus death was almost forgotten: and Floretus (drawn by Silviaes manifold Vertues) began exceedingly to affect her, using such kinde behaviour towards her, that she suspected that which afterwards she found most true. For Floretus concealing his love, felt the flame to burn the more inwardly; and living in that scorching tyranny, thought it better for him to manifest his love, then by hiding the same augment his torment: assuring himself he should accomplish his desire, because Silvia was a stranger, far from Friends, and without his friendship, was likely to come to poverty: which he thought would be means of importance, to draw her to like of him: Besides he thought he might do as he list with Artesia for that she was only in his custody. And on a day, finding Silvia alone in the Garden, comming to her with a submissive behaviour, he said as followeth:

My dear Silvia, I would gladly utter a matter of importance, if you will vouchsafe me gentle audience: So it is fair Damzel, that my heart hath long time been enthralled to your beauty, which I have refrained to utter, fearing to be refused: but know you how faithfully my heart is devoted to your service: and with what torment I have concealed the same, you would pity me. My estate is sufficient to maintain you well, though not so worthy as you deserve: you shall live with me contentedly, and have a faithful and constant friend, whom no afflictions shall alter. Therefore I beseech you let me receive some hope of comfort by your gentle speeches, which shall [illegible] many cares from my troubled heart.

Silvia had much adoe [illegible] smiling, to think how unfit she was to answer Floretus his [illegible] but committing further consideration [illegible] more convenient, gave him this answer:

My [illegible] considering how [illegible] and how soon I may be overtaken [illegible] that at my hands which I will not grant; but if with your favour I

may

may live ſo quietly as ſince my coming I have done, I ſhall think my ſelf more beholding to you for that, then for your proffered love, which I cannot yeild unto. Floretus thinking her ſoft anſwer was a ſigne ſhe would ſoon yeild, proſecuted his ſute with earneſtneſs; inſomuch, that Silvia plainly told him, that (as yet) ſhe could not fancy him, having had no trial of him; but ſaid ſhe would conſider further thereof. And ſo for that time they parted.

Floretus in hope to attain that which was impoſſible to be had, and Silvia in hope by this means the ſooner to attain Arteſias love. Firſt, conſidering Floretus had the diſpoſing of her, and therefore he muſt pleaſe him, leaſt otherwiſe he might be deprived of her company. Then he began to think of Arbaſtus murther, aſſuredly beleiving that it was not acted by his Fathers counſel, but rather by ſome ſecret foe; that might as well be Floretus as any other, for that he was the next heyr if Arteſia hindred him not: Which conceit took ſuch an effectual inſtance in his fancie; that comparing Floretus behaviour countenance, and little enquiry he made after the murtherer, he plainly ſuſpected him; which was rather by Divine providence then by any evident proof, that made him conceive this opinion. Such inhumane murthers are never unrevealed, though never ſo cloſely committed; God by ſome extraordinary means or other ſtill revealing them.

So came it to paſs with Ornatus, although he was no way privie to any ſuch act, or conceived any probability thereof, yet he thought Floretus countenance ſhewed him guilty, and therfore he wiſhed to have ſome conference with him, to ſee if he could gather the truth; whereby he thought both to diſcharge himſelf of that ſuſpicion Arteſia had of him, and alſo when ſhe ſaw his innocency and conſtancy, ſhe might yeild to love him: purpoſing to leave no means unattempted to try him; which he did the next time he ſpake with him, in this ſort.

Early the next morning, Floretus not unmindeful of his love, which kept him from his ſleep that night, never left till he had found Silvia, and comming to her with a decent and ſub-

miss speeches solicited his suit: whom Silvia cunningly handled, still putting him in hope, and yet making him no promise, which set him the more on fire, being so far overgone with affection, that he purposely determined either to win her love, or to hazard his own life, and to leave no means unattempted, were it never so dangerous, to procure his own content. The more unwilling he saw Silvia, the more importunate he grew, till at last Silvia said as followeth: Floretus, I know no reason you have to be so importunate, when I see in you no token of fidelity; but once having attained your purpose, you will esteem me as lightly as easily won. Besides, I see not how you can perform any such matter as you promise; for my part, I have no estate and you (for ought I see) as little; so by matching with you, I shall bring my self to povertie, and misery, and then your hot love will wax cold, and I rejected and left comfortless. Floretus not suffering her to proceed any further, made this answer: Silvia, do you not see Arbastus wealth, will not that be sufficient, the great possessions I now enjoy by him, are sufficient to maintain us happily, and will afford us all hearts content. Arbastus wealth (said Silvia) that is Artesia's by right, then how can you possess the same, and she living. Do but grant me love, said he, and I will quickly satisfie you in that, I have a means to get all into mine own hands; and therefore I beseech you let no such thought trouble your minde, but be assured, that in enjoying me, you shall reap all content and happiness, by my humble, dutiful, and constant loyaltie. Do but assure me of this (quoth Silvia) and you shall know my resolution afterwards.

Artesia entring the chamber brake off their speeches; whose presence bered Floretus at the heart, being scarce able to speak, by reason of his inward rancor: for indeed he hated Artesia, because she onely kept him from possessing his Brothers Living, the want whereof kept him from enjoying Silvia's love: therefore he resolved by some means to worke her downfal: which within short time he acquainted Silvia withall, by this occasion.

One

One day finding her alone in a secret place in the Garden, after many speeches past betwixt them, whereby he perceived the chiefest thing that hindred him was his want of wealth, and after that Silvia had in some sort made him a grant (onely to try him) he began to utter freely his minde in this sort: My dear Silvia, I am so well perswaded of your vertue and put such confidence in your trustiness, that I will reveal to you the very depth and secrets of my heart, would you but swear to keep my counsel: for to purchase your content, I have determined to put in practise a matter of secrecie, which concerneth my life, and therefore not to be revealed.

Silvia hearing that, thought it better to swear a thousand oathes, and break them all; then by niceness to endanger the life of Artesia, which she supposed he aimed at, and promised him by many protestations, to keep secret whatsoever he told her; whereupon Florerus urged with hope to win her love, and imboldned in mischief, cared not what he did to attain his will, said as followeth: Silvia you see Arbastus is dead, which was one stop that kept me from enjoying great possessions, and my purpose is, so you will but vouchsafe to aid me therein, to be so rid of Artesia; and then all that belonged unto her by her fathers death, shall be yours to dispose of. Silvias heart throbbed to hear his speeches, and intending to sift him to the full, said as followeth: Florerus I am sure you speak this onely to try me, and so to entrap me, and not of any intent you have to performe the same; wherein you shall do me great wrong, and your self no good: for I cannot believe you bear the least thought to do it. By heaven, it is my full intent, and for that you may be assured thereof, it was I that slew Arbastus; howsoever the matter is imputed to Allinus: and purpose likewise to be rid of Artesia, onely for your sake.

Therefore make no doubt of my resolution: for I am absolutely purposed to do it. O (thought Silvia) rather shalt thou see my blood, then pick one drop of hers. Why Florerus would you have me do any thing therein? You onely may do it (quoth he) with more safety then any other, and the manner thus:

Within a mile from this Castle, Arbastus hath a banquetting house in his Park, where oftentimes he would for his recreation lye, whether I will perswade Artesia to go for a season, to take the air, and to recreate her senses dulled with grief; and none but you to keep her company, and some two servants, whose trustiness I am assured off. This done, I will get a drink to be made the force thereof shall expel life, and yet by no means nor any cunning and skil be found out, which when you shall think convenient, give unto her: and being once dead who shall make any enquiry, but that she died of a natural sickness: And so this matter may without the least suspition be effected. and then you shall be Mistress both of her heritage and my self Silvia demanded when this should be put in practise. Within two days at the farthest said he: in the mean time, frequent you Artesias company, in such familiar sort as heretofore you have done, and my self will use her with no less kindness. Many other speeches having past betwixt them at that time, they took their leaves and parted.

Chap. VII.

How *Ornatus* told *Artesia* of *Floretus* intent; And upon what occasion he discovered himself.

Loretus being by himself, began to consider how rashly he had committed his secrets to Silvia, and entred into these meditations: Doth Silvia think that my policy exceedeth not her shallow capacity? For simple stranger, she hath undertaken a matter of portance for me, that mean nothing less then good will to her. She for my love hath promised to poison Artesia, and is likely (that once done) to taste the same sawce: for loved she me never so well, I will not trust her with my life; but peradventure she hateth me, and will reveal my drift to Artesia. No Floretus, thou art deceived, she is so

so far in love, that she doth, and would. I am sure do any thing at my request. What a world is this? What villany can be intended, which some, either for favour or reward, will not execute? If I should trust her that is so easily won to such a hainous deed, might I not be accounted mad? Yes and therefore I will not trust her; but Artesia being first dispatcht, she shall follow next.

Ornatus (on the contrary part) was glad that he had felt the depth of Floretus treachery; thinking likewise that he was so far in love with him (taking him for a woman) that for his sake he sought Artesias death, which was the onely means to help him attain her love: which he likewise determined to give her knowledge of, and to discover himself; hoping that when she saw his innocencie, his faithful love, and how by his means her life was preserved, she would yeild him due guerdon for his good will. Whilest he was in the depth of those cogitations, he espied Artesia enter the garden; and taking his Lute, found her seated upon a flowry Bank, under the shade of a Myrtle tree, and perceiving that she was somewhat heavily inclined, he sate down by her, and with his sweet melody rocked her asleep: when she had slept a good while, being exceedingly affrighted with a dream she started up, looking earnestly upon Silvia, saying: I pray thee Silvia do not poison me. Silvia seeing her so affrighted, was excedingly amazed, and she her self (not yet fully recovered) seemed to be afraid of him: till at last Silvia said: I beseech you what is that affrighteth you? O Silvia (said she) I dreamt thou wouldest have murthered me. Heavens forbid (quoth he) that I should attempt so heynous a deed. But would you vouchsafe to hear my tragick report, you shall presently be rid of that doubt, for Silvia is much tempted to do such a horrid deed, but she esteems your life far more dearer then her own, and would rather with her own hands tear out her woful heart, then think the least thought to wrong you. But because I have so fit an opportunity, and I hope your patience will permit me, I will rehearse a most monstrous and heynous intended mischief. The other day I remember you were

exceedingly offended with me for naming Ornatus, for that you supposed him to be an actor in Arbastus death: but both he and Allinus are innocent, and far from any such thought, for your Uncle Floretus was his murtherer, which he told me himself. He hath been oftentimes importunate to win my love (which another possesseth) but I suspecting as much as I now finde to be true, held him off with this delay; that he had not wealth to maintain me: Which when I had often alledged, he told me all that belonged to Arbastus was his. When I demanded how that could be, as long as you lived? Quoth he, swear but to be secret, and I will tell you how: With that (upon my protestations) he told me that he had murthered Arbastus, and meant to poison you; perswading me to consent thereto, for that he said I only could do it. With that I (not purposing to do it, but to preserve you) promised him my uttermost assistance; which he told me should be done in this manner: I will (quoth he) perswade Artesia to forsake the Castle, and to sojourn some few days at a house Arbastus hath in a Park, where none but you and two other servants, whose secrecy I nothing doubt, shall keep her company; where I will give you such a Potion, as shall end her life, and yet by no means be perceived: neither can there be any doubt thereof, for that I and none else am left of her kindred to finde out the truth. This is the sum of that he told me.

Artesia hearing her words, sate like one without sence a good space, being so far overcome with grief and fear, that she could not speak a word, but at the last she burst forth into these lamentations: Ay me, unkinde and most unnatural Uncle canst thou speak me so fair, and intend me so much harm? Who would have thought so foul impiety had been shrowded under so fair pretext? Couldest thou be so unnatural, as to murther thine own most natural, loving, and dear brother, and not contented with this Tragedy, to seek my untimely death? What frenzy or folly doth possess thy breast, that I esteemed replest with vertue? How canst thou suffer so impious and hainous a thought to sink into thy breast, much less tuact such a notorious outrage

against

against him that loved thee as his life, and her that honoureth thee as her friend? O Silvia, may I credit thy words, and not rather accuse thee and excuse him? May I think him so simple, to trust thee with his secrets? No I fear this is some plot invented by thee to some bad end. Yet I pray thee pardon me: for what canst thou get by telling me so unless it were so? Or not rather have kept his counsel, and then thou mightest have been my Heir. And pardon I ask of thee, good Ornatus, though thou art absent, for that I accused thee as accessary to my Fathers death, when thou art innocent. With that a flood of tears stopt the passage of her speech and Silvia said: Artesia yet vouchsafe to hear my counsel, which shall prevent all these eminent evils. You may peradventure make some doubt of the tryth of that which I have spoken; but I take heaven to record no word is false; for I regard your good above all things, and your quiet above my own content: for should you die, I could not live, for by that I draw my breath. I dived into Floretus counsels, not to aid him, but to prevent them; for that I knew Ornatus was no way guilty of any such treason, but would have ventured his own life to have preserved your Fathers, whom he both loved and honoured as himself, of whom I could have told you more, but that fearing to offend you, and partly seeing how vehemently you accused him, I durst not: His love is loyal, and thereon I will pawn my life. Silvia (quoth Artesia) thou tellest me wonders: but especially that thou art so privy to Ornatus thoughts, and that thou darest so boldly affirm he loveth me, when thou mayst be deceived. Most vertuous Artesia (quoth he) were you but so privy to the thoughts of his heart as I am, you would say as much as I, and believe all that I tell you: and to put you in assurance of what I know, I give you knowledge that I am Ornatus, that in this disguise have sought to attain your love: for which boldness, I most humbly desire you to pardon me. With that a ruddy blush spread it self into Artesias cheeks, before pale with fear, being much ashamed he had been so privy to many of her actions, that she could not tell with what countenance to behold him.

The

Then Ornatus said, I beseech you pity my torment, which hath urged me to this boldness, being frustrated of other means to enjoy your presence: my meaning being no other than vertuous, but resting at your merciful disposition: I desire you to put assured confidence in me for preventing Floretus intent, which you need not doubt of, for to my grief I know it to be too true.

Artesia marvelled excedingly at the strangeness of this news, but most of all, admired Ornatus love, which she could not tell how to reject, knowing he deserved it; and her necessity was such that her safety rested in his secresie: Yet being unwilling to yeild at that instant, without further assault, said: I know not by what name to call you, neither do I know whether you are Silvia, or Ornatus; but if either, your words bear great shew of true friendship, which I fear me is not grounded in your heart, neither do I greatly care: for since my Uncle seeketh my life let him take it, for I am weary of it.

Let not your gentle heart (quoth Ornatus) make any doubt that I am Ornatus, though my counterfeit disguise doth shew me other: but either vouchsafe me love, or give me leave to die for Artesia, for that portion that should dispatch you shal end my life. For my life is at your command, and all my felicitie resteth in your favour: which unless you grant, my life without the same will be but short, and the time I have to live an endless labyrinth of sorrow.

Adellena by occasion entred the Garden, and found Artesia weeping, and Silvia in a heady dump, greatly tormenting himself to see her sorrow. But Artesia espying her, said, Adellena doest thou love Ornatus so much as that thou wouldest hazard Life and Credit to do him good, thou sayst thou knowest him to be a most vertuous and honest Gentleman: I, but wouldst thou (quoth she) keep my counsel, if I should reveal a secret of importance to you concerning Ornatus? Upon Adellenaes faithful promise, she said: Do you know Ornatus if you see him: Behold there he is: Adellena was at the first half afeard at her speeches: but at last she perfectly remembred that it was

he,

he indeed, rejoycing moſt exceedingly to ſée him there, and eſpecially with Arteſia. Then they declared unto her all that had happened, and of Floretus intent, deſiring her to be ſecret and make no ſhew of diſcontent, leſt he ſhould ſuſpect Silvia had betrayed his ſecrets: And after ſome other ſpeeches paſt, they went into the houſe together.

Chap. VIII.

How *Arteſia* departed to the Lodge with *Silvia*, and from thence ſecretly departed to *Adellenaes* how; and how *Ornatus* taken to be *Silvia*, was by *Floretus* accuſation, and *Arteſiaes* want, baniſhed.

The next day it ſo fell out, that the King with divers of his company (amongſt whom was his onely Son and Heyr Lenon) being in his Progreſs, chanced to arrive at A baſtus houſe, thinking to have found him there, but hearing of his ſudden death, was exceedingly ſorry, perſwading himſelf (as all men elſe did) that he was ſlain by ſome of Allinus Family which made him make ſmall abode there, but departed to his Pallace. Now it fortuned that Lenon beheld Arteſiaes beauty, and was with the firſt view thereof exceedingly tranſported: Inſomuch, that after he was gone, he could by no means forget her; but determined ere many days paſt, to return to ſée if he could attain her love.

Now the time was come that Floretus had appointed to ſet abroach his Villany, and (according as Ornatus had before told Arteſia) he came to her, perſwading her for a ſeaſon, to lye in the Country; which ſhe (as fore-armed) conſented unto: and ſo the next morning, ſhe with Silvia, Floretus, and divers other attendants, departed: At night Floretus returning, did leave (with her (according as he had promiſed Silvia) onely two Servants that were to provide them neceſſaries but knew no part of the conſpiracy. When Ornatus and Arteſia were

alone, she before being undoubtedly assured of his loves fidelity, did use these comfortable speeches to him: Ornatus, whereas always before this time too unkindely I have reputed you as a Foe, I now crave pardon, being sorry that my heart hath done you so much wrong, which now I will requite with kindness. I confess it was strange to me to entertain love, but now I willingly yeild my self to be subject to it, and your true and faithful friend; committing my self to your custody, and my love and self to be yours to dispose of. Ornatus hearing her speeches, was ravished with a heaven of joy: and with a gentle and kinde behaviour folded her in his arms, imprinting a sweet kiss upon her Rosie lips, saying: Never was poor wretch exalted to more happiness then I am, by being enriched with this inestimable treasure of your love. What a rich reward have I now reapt for my cares! and what glory, joy, or wealth, can be compared to the riches of your love? O heavenly Artesia, how fortunate have you made Ornatus? How have you blest Ornatus? How full of joy is Ornatus, having obtained your consent? Was ever any so unworthy, so exalted? For this kindness and love, I will perform more then my tongue can utter; and be more faithful then your heart can wish. Then began they to embrace each other, and to surfet themselves in the solaces that true love yeildeth: He sometimes lending her a kiss, and she with interest paying two for one; for one sweet look two, and so many imbracings, as are not to be explicated: for their hearts and hands joyned in such firm bands of true affection, as are not to be dissolved; and they surfetted with such exceeding content, as is impossible to be described. These storms of love somewhat mitigated, they began to consult of their dangerous estate, and to devise how to prevent the intended mischief. In this place, they continued some two days in exceeding content, still expecting to hear from Floretus: who the third day (fearing to trust any with a matter of such weight) came himself to bring the potion (pretending he came to visit Artesia) delivering the same to Silvia, willing her the next night to give it her: which she promised him faithfully to accomplish.

When

When he was gone, Artesia came to Ornatus, to know what news Floretus brought: who told her all, and shewed her the poison in a Glass, which he had charged should be given her the next day. With that Artesia began to lament, and exclaim against her Uncle in most extream sort. But Ornatus intreated her to cease such vain grief, which could not hurt him, but her self; promising to prevent the same, if she would but follow his counsel, which she willingly yelded to.

Then quoth he, let us presently depart from hence to Adellenaes house, which is not far off; who you know is agréed with us already, where I will leave you, and return. Which said, while the servants were absent upon some special occasion, they departed: with little labour arriving at Adellenaes house, who was ready to receive them: and after many farewels, Ornatus returned back to the Lodge. And when it was Supper-time, the servants brought up meat; but Ornatus told them, Artesia was scarce well, and therefore they would not sup that night. And being alone by himself, he studied what excuse to make for Artesiaes absence when Floretus should come; spending that night in much care, and many unquiet cogitations hindred him from his sleep.

Floretus was no sooner returned from the Lodge, but he met Lenon, (who of purpose came to meet Artesia) whom Floretus kindely saluted, marvelling much wherefore he came; to satisfie which doubt, Lenon said.

My friend Floretus, I came to visit the fair Artesia, to whose beauty I am enthralled, not as regarding her wealth, but her sweet love, of whom you onely have the government: therefore I pray befriend me so much that I may be admitted conference with her. Floretus was so exceedingly amazed to hear his speeches, that he could not tell what answer to make, nor how to excuse her absence. Lenon seeing him in such a study, continued his speeches, saying: Floretus be not unwilling I should match with Artesia, for that shall no way hinder your preferment: who think peradventure the longer she liveth unmaried, the more wealth thou shalt get by her: but to rid you of that fear,

be but a means to win her consent, and I vow by heaven, I will not take one peny-worth of Arbastus substance from you, but freely give it you all: for it is not her possessions I desire, but her love; therefore pray resolve me herein.

My Lord, replied he, your offer is so bountiful, besides my duty urging me, I am ready to perform your will to the uttermost of my power. I thank you good Floretus, quoth Lenon, then I pray thee bring me to her, for my love is impatient of delay. My Lord replied he, that I cannot do instantly, for Artesia some two days past, with the strange Damzel Silvia, departed hence; and they are both now at the Lodge: whether (if you please to accept of such entertainment as this place yeilds) we will go to morrow morning. Agreed (qd. Lenon) I will accept your proffer. When the time of rest was come, Floretus being alone by himself, entred into these cogitations: What inconventencies hast thou run into Floretus? Thou hast hired one to murther Artesia, in hope to get her wealth, and made Silvia acquainted with thy proceedings, which wealth thou maist now attain by preserving her life: and besides, winning her to love Lenon, thou shalt finde him thy faithful friend for ever.

What wert thou then best to do? If thou shouldest murther her, he would make enquiry of her death, and so thou wilt be undone: If not, then will Silvia be displeased, and so betray all thy plots: the mischiefs which by thy folly thou hast run into are so intricate, that thou knowest not which way to shun them.

Were it not better to save her life, and win her love for Lenon, then to poison her; and so die my self? If I save her life, Silvia will be discontented: what of that? Then let Silvia smart for it: for if she will not be contented with that I shall never live to discover my intended treachery. And therefore will I first try her, and finding any suspicion thereof, I will stab her my self: whose death I may easier answer then Artesias.

Early the next morning, Lenon and he rode to the Lodge: where

where no sooner arrived, but he met with Silvia, to whom he said: Well met Silvia, I have news of great importance to impart unto thee: Lenon whom thou here beholdest, is Son to the King, and is deeply in love with Artesia, and hath given me assurance of Arbastus Livings, if I can win Artesia to match with him: Now I think it convenient to defer our purpose as concerning her death, until we have made trial whether she will love him or no; which if we can effect, we shall be quit of so cruel a deed, enjoy her Heritage, and have an assured friend of Lenon whilest we live: therefore let me know your opinion herein.

Silvia was exceedingly amazed to hear his speeches: thinking, that if he should tell him where Artesia was, she would be wrested from the possession of him, and so himself be disappointed of her love: And on the other side, he thought what mischief would arise, if he should say he had already given her the Poyson. But his love over-mastering the fear of any danger, made him say: All this I like well, but Floretus it is now too late; for I have caused Artesia to drink off the poyson you delivered me, and she is dead: which was of such force, that all her body purpled into blisterings and swellings; which because I knew would betray what we had done, I took her body and conveyed it into a deep pit, where it is impossible to be found.

Floretus now fearing to have his treason betrayed, thought to stab Silvia, and was so transported, that in a monstrous rage he drew his Dagger, and unawares struck Silvia into the left arm; who feeling the smart, with violence more then Floretus expected, stept to him, and in spight of his uttermost strength, wrung the Dagger out of his hands, and with the same wounded him in three places; and had not Lenon stept betwixt them, Floretus had been slain.

Lenon having parted them, began to demand what the matter was. Floretus thinking rather to accuse, then be accused himself, and terrified with affright, said: That wicked woman hath murthered Artesia. Silvia made no answer, untill

Lenon laid hold on her, demanding where Artesia was? Who answered: By the enticement of that wicked Floretus, I gave her a drink, that unknown to me, hath poisoned her.

Oh wicked Creature (said Lenon) thou hast condemned thy self, and therefore worthily shall thy accursed life make satisfaction for her death. With that he began to draw his sword, but Ornatus thinking it now no time to dally, lest he might by them be murthered, caught hold on Lenons sword, having such advantage, that he easily wrung it from him, and said: Worthy Lenon be advised, do thou not seek to spill my innocent blood, without further consideration, lest for the same thou lose thine own. Thinkest thou I am as faulty and guilty as Floretus is? Be assured I am not: but if thou lovest Justice, lay hands on that Traytor; for he, not I, is culpable of shedding her innocent blood.

By this time, Lenons servants perceiving their contention, came running in with their swords drawn; and by their Lords commandement, first apprehended Floretus, and afterwards sought by violence to take Silvia: but he standing in his own defence resisted them, alledging innocency; till Lenon vowed and protested: If he were not necessary thereto, he should have no other then Justice; and that his cause should be heard before the King.

Ornatus thought it better to yeild by fair means, rather then by compulsion; and esteeming it less grief to be made a prisoner, then to discover where Artesia was, and so have her taken from him, yeilded: both of them being conveyed to the Pallace, and for that night committed to several prisons.

Floretus being thus in durance, his conscience so deeply accused him of villany, that he cursed and exclaimed against his hard fortune, and with bitter bannings raged against himself, for trusting Silvia; with extream fear of death, seeming to be altogether desperate.

Ornatus (on the other side) took that trouble patiently, as endured for Artesias sake, fearing nothing; for that he knew himself innocent, and could easily acquit himself of such accusation,

purpo-

purposing rather to hazard the worst, then discover who he was; which to conceal was his greatest care.

The next day they were brought before the Prince, where Floretus (upon Silviaes accusation) confessed the truth both concerning Artesia, and how he slew Arbastus, for which he was adjudged to dye within two days. And (quoth he) to Silvia, for that thou art a stranger, and by his counsel rather then of thine own inclination, wert drawn unwittingly to do that deed, I will pardon thee thy life, but adjudge thee to be banished this Country. And (quoth he) because I fear that some will seek thy life, thou shalt presently be conveyed hence: which doom shall stand irrevocable.

Then he gave commandement she should be conveyed to the Haven presently: committing her to the custody of certain rude Mors: who not staying to hear what answer she would make (whereof por Ornatus was not readily provided in that extremity) immediately carried her away. To whom Ornatus would have told the truth of all; but he spake to them that understood him not. Who with speed executing the Princes command, rudely haled her aboard, and hoising sail never rested, until they arrived near the Coast of Natolia, where they were commanded to leave her.

Chap. IX.

Of the sorrow *Artesia* took for *Ornatus* banishment; And of the several Adventures befel him in Natolia.

Artesia remaining in Adellenaes house, marvelled she heard not from Ornatus, according to his promise, which drave her into some doubt of his safety: that comming to Adellena, she desired her to haste to the Lodge, and intreat him to come to her, for by her hearts mistrust she suspected some heavy news. Adellena immediately hasted thither, finding the servants in

in great sorrow, whom she asked for Silvia. Ay me (quoth one of them) by this time she is past speaking withall, for such heavy news is fain since your departure, as grieveth me to utter; and thereupon told her all that had happened.

Adellena brooking no delay, which in those affairs was dangerous, stood not to reiterate those griefs, and how contrarily every thing fell out; but with all haste returned to Artesia: who espying her comming, thought her countenance discovered some unwelcome accident, therefore hastily enquired how Ornatus did? Adellena could not speak a in good while for want of breath, but at last she said: Artesia, tedious laments is not now to be used, but speedy counsel how to save Ornatus, for he is carried before the King, and is accused by Floretus, to have murthered you: For comming to the Lodge, with Lenon the Kings sonne, who pretendeth great love to you, and not finding you, Ornatus told Floretus he had given you the poyson: Whereupon Floretus would have slain him: but Ornatus taking his dagger from him, had done the like to him; had not Lenon stept betwixt them. Then Floretus accused him of your death, and were both yesterday carried before the King.

Alas poor Ornatus, said Artesia, what misery is befalln thee for my sake? How art thou rewarded for preserving my life? Good Adellena counsel me what is herein to be done: Ornatus being among them a reputed stranger, having no friend to plead for him, may peradventure be over-swayed by Floretus perjury, and have his life endangered; chiefly, because he is taken to be a Natolian. Therefore Adellena if thou lovest him or me, save both his and my life, and discharge him of that false accusation: run to the Court and finde out Lenon, tell him of my safety, and request him for my sake to pity poor Silvia. Adellena (according to her commandement) mounted speedily, and with great speed by that time it was night, arrived at Court; and finding out Lenon, uttered these speeches: Most worthy Lenon, vouchsafe to hear me speak; the fair Artesia, whom you supposed dead, is alive and in safety at my house; who hath sent me to you in the behalf of Silvia, fearing some wrong might be

 done

done unto her, as suspected to be guilty of her death, when she onely hath preserved her life.

Lenon was so amazed at her speeches, that he could not tell what to say, being exceedingly greived for Silvia, but at length told her what his father had done; which appalled her senses with deadly fear. Lenon (notwithstanding it something greived him for Silvia) yet he rejoyced to hear of Artesiaes safety, and therefore he determined to go with Adellena to visit her, which likewise he performed, and entring where she was making exceeding lamentation, he said:

I beseech you greive not fair Damosel, for Silvia, for not any harm is done unto her, onely my father (upon her own confession, and Floretus accusation) hath banished her to her own Country.

Artesia hearing his speeches, with very greif fell into a deadly Trance, both Lenon and Adellena having much ado to bring her to life again. And being conveyed to her bed, when she recovered and came to her self, and saw Lenon standing by her (whose sight was most greivous to her) she turned her head from his sight, shedding such abundance of tears, that she bedewed the place where she lay. Lenon perceiving that she was displeased with his presence, withdrew himself, giving Adellena this charge. Adellena since Artesia is in thy custody, I charge thee let her not depart hence, until thou hearest of me again, for if thou doest thou shalt answer the same; but if thou wilt stand my friend, and in my behalf intreat her favour, I will prove so grateful a friend, as thou shalt account thy labour well imployed.

He was no sooner gone, but Artesia uttered these lamentations: Most accursed wretch that I am, to be thus separated from my dearest Love, whose courteous minde is the fountain of all Vertue: how unfortunate am I by my Fathers death, and my Uncles cruelty; but especially by his loss, that is unjustly banished into a strange Country, where he for true and loyal Gentleman, never set foot. How unhappy was he made, when he first began his love? But now most mise-

rable; and by seeking to preserve my life, hath cast away his own; and fearing to be disappointed of my love, hath quite dissevered himself from my sight, to hazard his person by Sea and Land.

Is it possible that he should ever return being so far conveyed from his native soil, and left to the mercies of strange people, that will be ready to destroy his guiltless life? No, I fear me never shall I be so happy as to behold him; and though I do not yet shall my love to him remain immoveable. Therefore now will I arm my self to endure all perils to live in care and continual grief for want of my beloved Ornatus, whose heart I know overflows with sorrow, and peradventure misdoubteth my loyalty, having been so unkind unto him before; and knowing Lenons affection, may suppose his dignity might alter my constancy: But sooner shall Ornatus hear of my death, then that I will alter my love, or yeeld his right to another, were he the greatest Potentate in the world.

Which said, another flood of brinish tears overflowed her eys, and the passage of her speech was stopt by heart-piercing sighings, which in confused multitudes issued with her sweet breath, never ceasing her laments, but still bewailing her true Loves absence, that it pierced Adellenaes heart with such sorrow, that she wept as well as Artesia; both being so much grieved, that they seemed to strive how to exceed one another in sorrow. In this sorrowfull estate Artesia remained so long, that she waxed extream sick; and grew to that extremity that Adellena feared her death.

Lenon likewise being come to the Court, got pardon of his Father for Florctus death; but notwithstanding he remained in Prison all the dayes of his life. Lenon likewise having heard of Artesias sickness, refrained from visiting her; onely he would oftentimes repair to Adellenaes house, to enquire how she did.

Ornatus being left in the Countrey of Natolia, took his misfortunes in such heavy sort, that if his hope to see Artesia again had not withheld him, he would have laid violent hands upon himself

himself; for a season giving himself altogether to sorrow and careless desparation, neither regarding which way to provide for his own safety, nor otherwise respecting what imminent danger he might run into, in that strange Countrey, for that the Wars had landed him in a vast and desolate coast of the Countrey.

Thus careless did he continue a whole night and a day, not so much as seeking food to preserve him from famine: But in the end, hunger constrained him to seek succour. But when his stomack served him, he could find no meat, that with the extremity thereof, calling to remembrance his estate, he thus bewailed his sad condition.

Thus Fortune, contrary to Nature, deals with her subjects, somtimes hoising them to the top of all felicity, and then with violence tumbling them down headlong into the depth of extream misery and despair.

Was ever man more fortunate, and suddenly miserable then I am? Could ever any man whatsoever, attain more heavenly felicity and happiness then I did, by being possessed of Artesia, and now again more accurst, being thus far absent from her, and banished my native soil into a strange Countrey, ready to be famished and devoured by wild beasts, or that which is worst, never likely to see Artesia again. How could any man contain himself from desperateness, being so miserable as I am? How can I with-hold my hands from murthering my self, when by doing it I shall be rid out of a wretched life?

What should I do? which way should I go? Here I am in an unfrequented place, where no humane creatures do inhabit, but wild beasts; without food without weapons, in womans apparel, and without hope of comfort. Shall I stay here, then shall I be famished: shal I leave this place and travel further, then I go further from my beloved, and meeting with some ravenous beast may be devoured. Now being hungry, I want food, and here is none, unless I will eat the earth, leaves of trees, or roots of the grass: Wel I will seek my fortune, be it good or ill. And in this desperate mood he travelled on, and by good fortune found

a Tree laden with exceeding pleasant and goodly fruit, with which he satisfied his hunger, not far from which place taking up his nights lodging.

Early the next morning he arose, first filling his belly, and then his lap, with that pleasant fruit, the taste whereof was like pleasant Wine, that being drunk in abundance, will make the head light: which made Ornatus heart merry, that he travelled on a pace. But Fortune not contented with the misery he endured already, sent him another affliction: he entred into a place like a Forrest, beset with trees of huge proportion, scattered here and there, where he met with a wilde and huge Boze that hanted those Deserts: who espying Ornatus, with a terrible groyning, bristled himself comming towards him. Ornatus being now driven to his uttermost shifts, began to run with all his force from the Beast: but he making the more speed; he almost had overtaken him, when one of the Apples Ornatus carried about him, fell down, and the Boze espying the same, stayed his backe to take it up, whereby Ornatus had gotten some little ground of him, and seeing him so much affect the Fruit, cast down another Apple, after which the Boze ran with greedinesse devouring the same. Ornatus was glad of this poor shift, and still cast down one Apple, and then another, that in the end he had almost thrown away all, and notwithstanding that, feared to be destroyed: But the Boze feeling his belly full, and his hunger allayed, left off his eager persuit, and followed him more carelesly; whom he still fed with Apples so long as his store lasted: that in the end, the Boze being drunk with the pleasant fruit, began to reel and stagger, and lying down fell fast asleep.

Which Ornatus seeing, having no other then a knife about him, with the same approached the Boze, and without fear, violently thrust the same so deep into the Bozes bristled side, that it pierced his heart; and he, after some strugling died.

Ornatus then held up his hands to Heaven for joy, exceedingly applauding this his fortunate and unexpected escape; which he took as a fortunate presage of good success. But yet before

he

he could determine what to do, Fortune once again shewed her mutability: For when Ornatus had parted the Boares head from his huge body, and with the same was ready to depart, there past by, as it seemed a Knight gallantly mounted in green Armour; who espying a woman bearing the Boares head, drew towards her, and said: Woman, where hadst thou that Boares head? I pray thee deliver it me. Ornatus made this answer: Sir I need not do either unless I know more cause then as yet I do. The Knight hearing that short answer, alighted, and said: I will shew no other reason but that I will have it. With that he began to strive for the same, but Ornatus having more minde to his sword, then to keep the Boares head, suddenly caught hold thereof, and drew the same out: which when he had gotten, he said: Disloyal and discourteous Knight, now will I keep the Boares head in despight of thee. With that he thrust at him, and contrary to his thought, wounded him so deep, that he left him for dead: wishing that he had not done that deed: but not knowing how discourteously he would have used him: let pass all further remorse, and casting off his womans apparel, put on the Knights apparel, and armour, mounted his Steed, and with the Boares head rode back the same way he saw the Knight come, and within a little space, found a beaten way that conducted him to a goodly Town, whose Turret tops he saw long before he came to the same: then began he to study what to do, sometimes thinking it best not to enter into the Town, from whence it was likely the Knight he slew came, and so he being taken for him might be known, and so afterwards endangered for his death: For peradventure the Knight might be of good estimation, and of purpose sent to slay the Boare, and if it should be known that he had slain him, his friends would for the same (and the rather for that he was a stranger) prosecute sharp revenge against him.

Whilest he continued in these meditations, he came near the Town, not fully resolved what to do, where he was soon espied of some of the people, who seeing the Boares head, came running

ning towards him, making exceeding joy: Which when he saw; he thought it too late to turn back, but that he must go on, and hazard the worst. And being entred the Town a number of the inhabitants flocked about him, some with Garlands, some with praises, and all with joy, uttering these speeches, Welcome home most brave Alprinus.

Ornatus then perfectly knew that the Knights name was Alprinus, and went of purpose to slay the Boar, whom they took him to be, and that he must of necessity be known; which drave him into an exceeding care, what excuse to make to avoid the danger of death.

Then presently he beheld a troop of beautiful Damzels, with the sounds of sweet Musick comming towards him; amongst whom one as chief, and more beautiful then the rest, was crowned with a Garland of Flowers, bearing another in her hand, who all at once applauded his victory, dancing before him, until he came to the middest of the Town, where sate the chief Magistrates, where the Damzel that was crowned, thus spake unto him.

Sir Alprinus, your conquest hath released the Inhabitants of care, extolled thy fame, preserved thy life, and won me for thy Love: You have well performed the task you undertook, and according to your desert I come to crown you with these flowers, and to yeeld my self as yours for ever.

Ornatus hearing her speeches, thought to try the end of this Adventure, which could be no worse then death, which of force he must now hazard: So alighting, he laid down the Boars head upon a Table that stood before the Ancients, with humble and comely behaviour kissing the Damzels hand, who set the wreath of Flowers upon his head; and taking him by the hand, brought him before the Ancients, one of whom stood up and said: Worthy Gentleman, whereas before thou wert by us adjudged to die, as worthy thereof; for this thy valiant deed, we freely pardon thee, and acquit thee from all trespasses which thou hast committed against any whomsoever until this present hour.

And

And taking the Damzel by the hand, said, Lucida, according to thy desire, and his desert, I yeeld thee to be his Wife. And Gentleman (quoth he) take her as thine own, as freely as she was by birth adopted mine; and after my death, be thou inheritor of my Lands.

To all this Ornatus gave a free consent; and the night now approaching, he with Lucida went to her Fathers house, where was a great Feast provided, from which Ornatus excused himself in this sort. When he was entred the house, being still Armed, onely lifting up his Beaver, he took Lucida by the hand and withdrawing her aside, said.

Lucida, I now know your love to be infallible and your constancy above all Womens that I have known; and that Alprinus is so far indebted unto you, as that he shall never (might he live a thousand years) be able to recompence this inestimable favor of your love, which hath preserved my unworthy life from destruction.

But notwithstanding your Love Alprinus his debt is so great as can no way be gratified, I request one further favor at your hands, whereon my chiefest felicity dependeth, yea my life, your love, and perpetual good; which I fear to utter, lest you should misconceive the same, there being no other thing to hinder the content Alprinus seeketh, but onely your favourable consent, to banish all mistrust of my faith.

Lucida marvelled at his speeches, indeed loving him so well, that she would have spilt her own blood for his sake, saying: Alprinus, what need you make doubt of my consent to any thing, whatsoever it be, for your sake? Know you not how faithful I have continued, though you slew my onely Brother, and that I esteemed your love far dearer then his life: And when you should have died for that deed, obtained this at my Fathers and the rest of the Ancients hands, That slaying the Boar that had slain many people, you should save your own life, and win me as your love.

And notwithstanding all this, do you make a question whether I will yeeld consent to any thing that shall be for your good

O Alprinus, if your love were so constant as mine, if you intended to continue my love for ever, if your heart felt so deep a sting of love as mine, you would not make such a doubt of my loyalty, of my truth, true love, and constancy: For you know, whatsoever you should ask, I will grant; whatsoever you should request, I will perform: and wherein soever a Lover may shew infallible tokens of her truth, I will do as much as any. But since you will not beleive me without an oath; I swear by my love, my unspotted Virginity, and all the good I wish my heart, I will consent, agree; perform, or do any thing: nor be offended with any thing, be the news never so unwelcome (so it be for Alprinus good) nor leave any thing unperformed you shall require.

Ornatus hearing with what constancy her speeches proceeded from her, and how grievously she conceived it, that any doubt should be made of her loyalty, thought most certainly that he might put his life into her hands, and therefore having already studied a device, said: It ill agreeth with my nature to dissemble, and hardly could I have been drawn thereto, but that desire to preserve love drew me thereto: for know most worthy Lucida, that I am not Alprinus, but one that for his sake hath undertaken this: The truth whereof, if thou wilt hear with patience, I will declare.

Yesterday, I travelled through the Forrest or Desart, where I met Alprinus sore wounded, and flying from the Boare, that pursued him with celerity; which when I beheld to rescue him from death, I set upon the Boare, and by good fortune slew him: which when he beheld, he declared to me the cause of his coming; which when I heard, pitying his estate, I bid him take the Boares head; and withall, helped him to mount his Steed, but his wounds would not suffer him to ride, that I was in some fear of his life. When presently we beheld an ancient Hermite coming towards us, who lived in a Cave in those Woods, and undertook to cure his wounds, being glad of the Boares death. To whose Cell I conveyed Alprinus: at whose request I have performed this which you see, and had under-

undertaken to hazard my life, to discharge him of death, and win the assured possession of your love.

Now I most humbly entreat you, for his sake to conceal what I am that I be not known, and so both disappoint your self of his love, and him of safety. Onely devise a means to excuse me from their feast: which I trust you will do for Alprinus sake, and then we may have time to study for your further content.

Lucidaes love made her believe that all he said was true, and therefore said: Sir, I trust there is no cause why I should mistrust you: and therefore relying upon the truth of that which you have said, I will tell my father you are wounded, and desire rather to go to your Chamber then to the Feast, who I know will deny me nothing. This said she went to her father, and so prevailed with him, that he was contented she should have the tending of him: whom she took to a Chamber, suffering none to come at him but her Maid whom she trusted, and well might trust for her fidelity. Afterwards Lucida came to Ornatus to determine how she might come to see Alprinus, being most careful of his health: and amongst many other speeches, they concluded that Ornatus the next morning should depart the Forrest to Alprinus, and that she by some means would come thither the next day after (if he would meet her) to give her directions where to finde him: which he promised to do. According to to this agreement Ornatus very early the next morning armed himself, and as Lucida had instructed him, took his leave of her father (who little suspecting he had been any other then Alprinus) gave his consent: and so Ornatus in Alprinus armour, again departed the town, being glad he was escaped from death, which he was sure to have endured, if it had been any wayes known that he had slain Alprinus.

And being now alone by himself, having the wide World to travel in, but never a friend to go to; void of fear, but not of care, he studied whither to direct his journey: sometimes his conscience accusing him of too much disloyal dealing towards Lucida, in betraying her vertues; dissimulation, in

telling her Alprinus was living, when he knew the contrary.

Then he contrarily thought it was lawful for him to dissemble with her to save his own life, and though he had slain Alprinus, he did it but in defence of his honour.

Amongst all these this cogitation seemed most to acquit him of dishonor, that fortune and the destinies had by that means ordained him to escape. Whilest he rode on in these deep meditations, he met with an antient Hermite, who comming towards him said: Discourteous Gentleman, how camest thou by that Armour? And yet I need not ask thee for I know thou slewest the worthy Gentleman Alprinus, which I beheld, to my grief: Father (quoth Ornatus) if thou didst behold the same, thou canst witness I did it against my will, and in my own defence; for whose death I am as sorry as thy self, and would as willingly have done any thing to preserve the same as any man living.

Will you then (said the Hermite) do this for him, vouchsafe to come and speak with him, who is in reasonable good estate in my Cell?

I would to God, said Ornatus, thy words were true: for if he be living, it will revive my heart with joy, that is almost vanquisht with care: desiring nothing more then to see him. He is living said the Hermite, and if you will go, I will bring you to him presently.

Ornatus being come to the Cell, accordingly found Alprinus very weak by reason of his grievous wound; to whom Ornatus declared all that happened betwæn him and Lucida; which added no little comfort to Alprinus heart, that he thought himself of sufficient strength to go and mæt with her; and withall, yeilded him so many thanks, as if by his means his life had bæn preserved.

In the mean time they continued in the old Hermits Cave: Alprinus in great comfort, and Ornatus in no less care, for the absence of his dear Artesia, breathing forth many a deep sigh, and uttering many a sad and mournful lamentation: sometimes utterly despairing of attaining her love, and then again, remem-

remembring her vertues, growing into ſome better confidence of her conſtancy. Yet moſt of all fearing that Lenons love to her, might either by perſwaſion of his death, or affect of dignity, or by other means, win her to conſent to him; eſpecially, for that ſhe had no Parents to govern her, nor he never a faithful friend to counſel her.

The next day, Alprinus and he went out to meet Lucida, whom they met at the entrance into the Forreſt, and after many kinde ſalutations paſt between the two Lovers, they altogether went back into the Town, to Lucidaes fathers houſe, who that morning was departed to a Haven, about buſineſs of importance.

Ornatus was moſt kindely uſed of them, remaining there until Alprinus had wedded Lucida: but then he thought it high time for him to depart. And on a time, finding Alprinus alone, who had ſhown ſufficient tokens of his friendſhip, he declared unto him the whole truth of his fore-paſſed love to Arteſia, requeſting his help for his paſſage into Phrygia.

Alprinus very attentively liſtened to the whole diſcourſe, promiſing his uttermoſt aſſiſtance; which (quoth he) none can effect ſo well as Lucida whoſe father is a Merchant, and ſendeth forth Ships into ſundry Provinces, who onely may pleaſure you: Which charge I will undertake, and cauſe her to deal ſo effectually with him, that you ſhall attain your deſire. Ornatus continuing in good hope, ſomewhat abandoned his former deſpair: Whom for a time we will leave, attending the time that ſome of the ſhips ſhould depart; to ſpeak of his beloved and conſtant Lady, Arteſia.

Chap. X.

How *Lenon* cauſed *Arteſia* by violence to be carried from *Adellenaes* houſe to the Green Fortreſs; and of the miſeries ſhe endured there. How ſhe was reſcued from thence by *Allinus*, and from him taken by Pyrates: and how *Allinus*, accuſed by *Lenon* for her death, was impriſoned.

NOw after that Arteſia by Adellenaes careful tendance had ſomewhat recovered health, Lenon began to viſit her again, being unable to endure the heavy burthen of his hot and burning love, thinking her ſickneſs proceeded from fear of Floretus, not for want of Ornatus company, and finding an occaſion, ſaluted her in this ſort: Moſt faireſt Arteſia, my heart is ſo firmly enthralled to your beauty, and my affections ſo admire your vertues, that I am conſtrained to utter my minde, and to tell you, I ſo love your beauty, vertues, and other moſt rare perfections wherewith you are adorned, that I humbly ſue to you for favour, and proſtrate my ſelf your vaſſal at your feet, deſiring to be enriched with theſe Jewels of ineſtimable price: which having once obtained, I ſhall think I have more wealth in my poſſeſſion, then all the world beſides my ſelf doth contain. Your unkinde Ladies cruelty you need not fear, nor other miſfortune; neither have you any parents to over-rule you in making your choiſe: then vouchſafe to accept my ſuit, and yeild conſent to my love.

My Lord (replied Arteſia) I thank you for your good will, but I know not how to accept your love, being yet ſo far from knowing what it is that if I ſhould but dream thereof, my heart would be out of quiet: beſides, many cares continually attend the ſame, and my mean eſtate ſo far unworthy thereof, with innumerable other diſcontents and cares, that I ſhould make my ſelf ſubject unto, that I had rather a thouſand times remain in the eſtate I am now in. Therefore I entreat you to ſettle

your

your love elsewhere, more agreeable to your estate and fancy: for I shall think my self most fortunate, if I never fall into that labyrinth of disquiets, but will, during my life, labour to keep my self free from Loves bands. Lenon would not take this for an answer, but with many other speeches continued his suit, whom Artesia still put out of hope, so that he departed exceedingly discontented; leaving her no less disquieted in thoughts, how to avoid his love.

In this sort did he daily visit her, still growing more importunate; amongst many other, this conference past betwixt them: Artesia (quoth he) how long shall I sue and be frustrated in my hopes, by your unkindeness? Is your heart hardened against me? Or am I so ill-conditioned, that you cannot conceive well of me? Or is it possible you bear so hateful a conceit of love as you make shew for? Then may I accuse mine eys that have betrayed my sences, in making them your captive, then may I think my woe begun, when I first began to love. Fairest, be not so cruel, as to punish me with this disdain.

My Lord (replied she) I seek not your discontent; for at the first motion I told you my minde, which shall never alter: neither is my heart hardened against you more then others, for I am determined not to love; then since you know my intent, it were a point of wisdom in you, to shake off this fond and foolish love, which is but a toy, and an idle fancy, that is bred by vanity: and do not seek to make love grow without a root, for in my hart it shal never take root, but rather when it is rooted I will pull out heart and all, but I will root it out. Then (quoth he) you are led by obstinacy and not by reason: for that you are subject to love you cannot deny; then why not me before another, considering my love is more faithful then any other? And I being most worthy, why should I not be first accepted? Artesia was weary of his speeches, having her constant thoughts bent onely on Ornatus; therefore to rid him from her she said: it is in vain to use many words, neither am I like to those, that will at the first seem coy, and afterwards yeild, but I desire you to be satisfied with that which I have already said; that I cannot love.

Fair Damoſel, how can I be ſatisfied with that unreaſonable anſwer, when my life dependeth on your conſent: which your denial will finiſh? Then give me leave to ſay, I cannot be ſo ſatisfied: but being extremely refuſed, I muſt grow perforce to be as unreaſonable in my requeſts. Conſider you not what dignity I might advance you to, by making you my Wife; conſider you not the pleaſures joyes and aboundance of all contents you may enjoy with me, and how faithfully I love you, and with what humility I ſeek your love: and yet notwithſtanding you remain obdurate? My power is great, that whereas I ſue, I might command, and by authority compel you to conſent: Then be not ſo over-conceited, as ſo obſtinately to reject your good, and think, that if my love were not conſtant, I might uſe extreams which might ſoon alter your minde.

Suppoſe (replied Arteſia) I were ſo pœvish as you term me, yet being born frée, I am not to be made bound by conſtraint: and were you the greateſt King in the World, you could not rule the heart, though you might by injuſtice puniſh the body: for it is not Kingdomes wealth, nor cruelty, can turn hatred to love, but it may ſoon turn love into hatred. But by your ſpéeches I may partly know your thoughts, and the lips utter what the heart intendeth: do with me what you will, I cannot love: neither will I love you, were you Monarch of all the World.

Lenon was ſo much greived and vexed at her ſpéeches that he was ready to tear his hair, his loves extremity making him rather mad then ſober, that preſently he departed, ſaying no more then this: Farewel hard hearted Arteſia.

She was glad he was gone, preſently telling Adellena all that had paſt betwixt them, and how peremptorily ſhe had anſwered his importunate ſuit: telling Adellena that ſince Ornatus was for her ſake baniſhed, ſhe would never love any but him, and preſerve her life, in hope to ſee him again; but the firſt knowledge of his death, ſhould be the lateſt date of her life: both ſhe and Adellena thinking Lenon would never return to proſecute his love.

But

But he being come to the Pallace, betook himself to his Chamber, raging more like a mad man, then a passionate lover: sometime swearing, curssing and stamping, yelding so much to that mad fancy, that in the end he vowed to obtain Artesias love, though he hazarded his life, honour, and good name: that raging in this sort up and down his chamber, he espied an old Gentlewoman named Flera, going by his window, whom he called unto him, and thus said: Flera, because I have assured confidence in thy fidelity, and purpose to reward thee liberally, I crave thy counsel, and with it thy consent to be faithful in concealing my secrets, and diligent in doing my commaund. The old Hag making an evil fashioned low curtesie said: My dear son Lenon, be it to do you good, I will hazard my life, and rather be torn into a thousand peices, then reveal what you vouchsafe to tell me.

Then (quoth he) counsel me which way I should begin to win a fair Damzels love. Marry my Lord (quoth she) give her knowledge thereof, and then with fair speeches woe her: if that will not prevail, give her gold, and there is no doubt, but that fair bait will catch her.

No no (quoth he) these are of no force: I have made my love known to her by humble suits, submiss behaviours, and by all kinde of courteous means intreated her consent: yet for all that she remaineth obstinate: she is rich, and therefore gold with her is of no force, she is fair, vertuous noble, and chaste, then what engine hast thou to undermine that chastity?

Means enough (quoth she) peradventure she is ruled by others counsel, which may prevail more then your suit: but might I have access unto her, I do not doubt but to alter her minde: for being fair, young, and rich, she cannot chuse but delight to be praised; subject to love, and therefore yeild to desire.

Doest thou think (quoth he) thou couldst win her, wert thou her Keeper? I warrant you (quoth she) I would do it. Then shalt thou be her Keeper: see that thou art to morrow at my fathers Castle in the green Forrest, where to morrow by night this Damzel shall be; whose name is Artesia, daughter to Arba-

Rus

stus lately dead: use her kindely, let her want nothing, nor be not in any wise known that thou knowest me, nor that the Castle belongeth to my father, nor speak not of love in any case: use her in this sort, until I speak with thee for thou onely shalt have her custody.

Flera being gone about her business, he found out two of his truckiest servants, to whom he imparted both his minde and intent: willing them on the next morning with speed to go to Adellenaes house, and either by force or fair means to take Artesia from thence, and carry her unto the grẽn Fortress in the grẽn Forrest, where they should finde Flera, to whose custody they should commit Artesia: and themselves should remain there, to provide all things necessary, until his comming.

Early the next morning, the servants rode to Adellenaes house, whereinto they boldly entred, and comming to Artesia, first spake her fair. but afterwards told her she must go with them, if not willingly, by constraint. Artesia then began to burst into tears, weeping and lamenting exceedingly, upon her knees intreating them, not to offer by violence to carry her from thence, but if they would needs, that they would take Adellena with them: but all was in vain, for they constrained her to mount behinde one of them, and away they rode in great haste. This heavy parting was so sudden, that Artesia could not bid Adellena adieu but with tears, nor Adellena speak a word for grief, their sences being so far confounded with care. that their hearts were ready to burst therewith. Artesia thought it was Lenons doing, and therefore sorrowed the more, not that he used her unkindely, but that he loved her: not fearing his cruelty, but his lust: not fearing what cruelty he could use by hatred, but fearing his love would make him seek her dishonour.

Being come to the Fortress, and committed to the custody of Flera, the old woman began to speak her fair, and use her kindely, yet her very words and countenance betraying her guilty conscience: to whom Artesia would not speak a word, lest thereby she should give her occasion to prate: meat she brought

brought unto her, but she refused to taste thereof: and when she came to her Chamber, she lay on the Rushes refusing the Bed; tormenting her heart with care, vexing her head with thoughts, and busying her senses in meditating to what issue this usage would sort.

Sometimes calling on Ornatus name for comfort; sometimes accusing Lenon of barbarous cruelty, and cursing her crooked destinies: uttering such plaints as would have turned tyrants to ruth; weeping her eys dry and her garments wet, tearing her hair, and tormenting every one of her senses with vexation, refusing sleep rest, ease, or quiet.

The next day Lenon came thither, asking Flera how she fared; who told him that she would not speak, eat, nor sleep, but fared like one mad and senseless. But let her alone, quoth she, and you shall see this fit will soon be over the extremity whereof being once past, I will try my skil with her.

Lenon giving order to have all things necessary provided, departed. Dinner time being come, and meat set before Artesia, she refused to eat: likewise Supper time being come, she determined to do the like, which Flera perceiving, said:

Fair Gentlewoman, to behold your outward appearance, would make one judge your minde harboured many hidden vertues: but I comparing your actions with your apparent shew suppose that you are either mad or careless: this behaviour, to seem dumb, to refuse sustenance, and to refrain from sleep, are instances of folly, not of wisdome. What if you speak, what if you did eat or take rest, should you be ever the worse? Or refraining, can that do you good, or banish grief, and not rather make your estate worse? Do you think to prevent any thing by doing your self harm? No, fond childe; eat thy meat, and preserve thy life; for living thou maist attain thy desires, but dying, thou art past hope: With that she departed smiling.

Artesia hearing her speeches, began to consider indeed, what folly it was to refuse her meat: and for fear to shorten her life by distempering her self, which might be the means

to further Lenons intent; whom she knew would seek her life, if he could not win her love, she presently left off such desperate behaviour, and with well-weighed consideration, attended the event of the worst misfortune: and from that time, did both eat her meat, and did all that she could to comfort her self, still living in good hope of Ornatus return.

Some few days after Lenon came to the Fortress again, enquiring of Flera how Artesia fared. Well quoth she) but you willed me to conceal that it was your doing to bring her hither, and some body else hath told her thereof, for she knoweth the truth, as well as your self, or I: and therefore I would wish you to give her a visit, and after that let me alone to perswade her.

Lenon was ruled by the old woman, and came where Artesia was, saluting her: but she disdaining to look on him, or hear him speak, withdrew her self from his presence: wherewith he departed, willing Flera to do that which she had undertaken. Flera finding her, as she thought in a fit mood, began to discourse with her of many things, amongst which love was one.

Artesia a while heard her, but in the end perceiving her drift cut her off with these speeches: Old iniquity, I know whereto thy talk tendeth, thinkest thou I will ever harbour a thought of Lenon that used me thus dishonourably? No, rather will I rend my woful heart from out my breast before his face.

Thou needest not to tell me that he hath intreated thee to speak for him, for I know too well both his and thy intent, which shal nothing prevail, but harden my heart against them. Therefore do not speak to me, for I will not hear thee, nor answer thee, but hate him, thee, and thy counsel, and remain so constant in despising him, that a thousand deaths shall not alter me. Is it love, that hath made him with violence carry me from my friends, make me a prisoner, and also commit me to the custody of such a hellish Hag as thy self? If that be his love, let him turn it into hatred, and never trouble me but with hating me; for in so doing he shall better please me.

Often Flera would have replied, but Artesia would not suffer her

her, that she began to waxe angry, and in the end to plain fury; that running to Artesia, she caught hold on her, and began to tear her garments from her body, and withall caught sometimes such firm hold on her pure flesh with her nailes, that the blood followed, and Artesia began to shrike for smart.

When the old Beldam had executed some part of her intended revenge and cruelty upon her in this sort, she said: Proud Girl, thinkest thou to bear it away with out-facing me? No, do not think that I will leave thee thus, but thou shalt repent that ever thou camest here, and before I go, I will have my will of thee, then she pulled out a knife, and catching hold on her, swore, that unless she would promise to use Lenon kindly when he next came, she would cut her throat; which drave Artesia into that fear, that she began to intreat her, and speak fair, promising to condiscend to any thing that agreed to her honour. Stand not upon these nice termes with me (quoth Flera) but here swear to yeild to love him, for so thou maist delay him and frustrate his hopeful expectation, whom thou art not worthy to touch, much less to bear such a presuming minde as thou doest, in scorn of his love. Therefore yeild to that which I request, or stand to my mercy. Canst thou bestow thy love better then on so honourable a Prince? Canst thou attain more dignity, reap more content, or enjoy more quiet with any, then with him? Then do not deny me, for I purpose not to be denied.

Artesia trembling for fear, made this answer onely to satisfie her: I am contented to be ruled by Lenon, whose meaning I know is honourable. Therefore I pray do not offer me this outrage, but suffer me to live in quiet till his comming. If this will not satisfie you then do the worst you can, for death is more welcome to me then life in these extremities. Well (quoth she) I will try you, but if you dally, beware what will ensue; for I am resolved what to do. Artesia was glad she had satisfied her, though it were with uttering words which she never intended to performe.

Adellena seeing how suddenly Artesia was taken from her, caused one of her servants to follow them privily to the green

Fortress, who returning, told her what he had seen. Then Adellena began to study how to release her from thence, and with all haste rode to Allinus house, where being arrived, she declared all that she knew as concerning Ornatus: and how Lenon had carried Artesia by violence into the green Fortress. Allinus being glad to hear that Ornatus was alive, promised to redeem Artesia from Lenons custody. And to that effect the next Evening caused his men to mount themselves; and himself, with some five of them, disguised from being known, came to the green Fortress, and one of them knocking, whilest the other hid themselves, the servants little suspecting any such ambush or intent, opened the Gate; when presently they rushed in, and soon found out Artesia, whom Allinus told who he was, and to what intent he came. Artesia was glad thereof, and willingly yelded to go with him: but the old Woman made such an out-cry, that all the place rung thereof. One of Allinus servants (seeing she would not be pacified) drew his sword, and thrust it through her body; and so with a yelling cry she gave up the ghost.

Then presently Allinus departed with her, intending to carry her to his own house, to keep her there unknown, until he could hear of Ornatus. And remembring that the two servants were fled, and would no doubt certifie Lenon what was done, would not go back the same way he came, though the readiest, for then he thought he should meet them; but went a more secret way, thinking by that means to pass unseen: and entring into the Plains where cattle fed, Allinus espied a company comming towards them, whom he suspected to be Lenon, (which in reason he could not think, but that fear perswaded him thereto:) The company likewise espying them who were certain Pyrates that were wandred from their ships to steal cattle, wondred what they should be that were so late abroad, and being ready to execute any mischief, set upon Allinus and his company.

Allinus thinking it had been Lenon, would by no means yeild nor speak, fearing he should descry them, but resisted the Pyrates;

rates: who being uſed to many ſuch meetings, ſoon ſlew two of his ſervants, and had given himſelf ſo many grievous wounds, enforcing him to yeild: who taking from him all that was good, and conſtraining Arteſia to go with them, haſted to their ſhips, when having conveyed her aboard, to prevent the worſt, hoiſed ſail, and lanched into the deep.

Then was Allinus left in moſt miſerable Eſtate, with all ſpeed haſting to his houſe. Lenons ſervants likewiſe were by that time it was Midnight gotten to the Pallace, and called their Lord out of his Bed, to certifie him what had happened: who preſently mounted himſelf, and with a ſufficient company rode to the Fortreſs; and entring, found Flera ſlain, and all elſe fled.

Then began he to muſe who ſhould do that deed, and what they ſhould be that had carried away Arteſia: by this time it was day light, and Lenon reſted in exceeding vexation to be ſo diſpoſſed of his beautiful Love; yet he commanded his men to poſt by companies ſeveral ways if it were poſſible to find thoſe that had done that deed, whileſt he himſelf remained there, bewailing that misfortune.

His ſervants had not rode far, but (by the light of the day, which diſcovereth things done in darkneſs) they found Allinus two ſervants, whoſe dead bodies they carried back to the Fortreſs. Lenon ſeeing them, he conceived that Allinus was a party in this action, and that he had taken away Arteſia, to ſeek her death. To prevent which miſchief (as he thought then or never to be done) he preſently rode home to the Court and humbly upon his knee, intreated his father to grant him licenſe with a ſufficient power to reſcue Arteſia from Allinus, who intended to murther her, declaring how he himſelf found her in Adellenaes houſe, and how that he had placed her in the green Fortreſs to defend her from the malice of Allinus and other ſpiteful enemies, ſhe being left fatherleſs; and how that night Allinus had taken her from thence by treaſon, and intended no leſs then her ruine. The King hearing his Sons ſpeeches, granted his requeſt.

Then presently divers, to the number of three hundred men, with as much speed as possibly could be, armed themselves, and in haste with Lenon went to Allinus Castle: into which they violently (and unawares to any within) entred.

Lenon presently laid hands on Allinus, whom he found sore wounded, asking him for Artesia, who thinking that some of his servants had certified him what had been done, presently confessed the truth of all; both of his intent, and how Artesia was rescued from him, but by whom he knew not, and how at that time two of his servants were slain.

Lenon giving no credit to his speeches, never left till he had searched the whole Castle throughout, but not finding her, accused Allinus that he had murthered her, commanding his men to binde him, and carry him as a Traitor to the Court. Who being come before the King, confessed the truth as before he had done, utterly denying that he never sought Artesiaes death, but her safety: But yet notwithstanding the King was so over-ruled by Lenons accusations, that he committed him to prison, his Goods and Lands were seised upon as a Traitor, his Lady wife turned out of doores in poor habit, and all manner of cruelty exercised upon his servants and kinsfolks, and commandement given that none should succour them.

Allinus being in prison, laden with irons and hardly used, yet endured that affliction patiently; but hearing of his Ladies calamity, and how she was unjustly constrained to beg, that all her life had been tenderly brought up, thought those sorrowes would soon bring her to her end; and entred into many bitter lamentations for her and his own misfortunes, which were too tedious to recite. His servants were constrained to disguise themselves, and travel into remote places of the Countrey, to live unknown, otherwise none would have entertained them. His Lady was compelled to seek out a kinswoman of hers, that lived in the Country, of whom she was entertained, and lived a poor life, far differing from her former life, which she took most patiently.

And thus was Allinus house defaced, his Goods and Lands

seised

ſeſſed upon, himſelf impriſoned, his Wife in poor eſtate, his ſervants driven to wander from place to place, ready often to periſh for want of ſuccour, and all his dignity turned to miſery, onely by Lenons malice, who had no ground for thoſe accuſations he uſed againſt him, but onely of a vain ſuppoſe, and mad frantick affection that over-ruled his heart: which ſo prevailed with him, that he ſought by all means he could, his death.

Chap. XI.

How *Ornatus* got ſhipping into Phrygia. How *Allinus* was ſet at liberty; and how the Pyrates caſt lots who ſhould poſſeſs *Arteſia*.

Ornatus all this while remained in the Country of Natolia with Alprinus and Lucida, in great grief for want of means to depart into Phrygia, to ſee what was become of his dear love Arteſia: But being a long time fruſtrated, by reaſon none of the Ships that were at Sea came home, he began to deſpair, thinking that Arteſia ſuppoſing him dead, by reaſon of his long abſence, would now marry Lenon: which grief, and many other doubtful thoughts oppreſt his heart with ſuch paſſion, that he began to wax ſick, and afterwards fell into an exceeding Feaver, which held him for the ſpace of three months in great extremity, which ſurely had abridged his dayes, had he not been moſt carefully nouriſhed by Lucida, who had an eſpecial care of his good.

During which time of his ſickneſs, certain ſhips of Phrygia waved on the Coaſt of Natolia, ſome fourteen miles diſtant from the town where Ornatus was, of which he had intelligence by certain Factors belonging to Lucidaes father. Which news revived his ſpirits with joy, before drooping with care, that within few dayes he recovered his former health: which greatly reſoyced Alprinus and Lucida, whoſe hearts were linked unto him in bands of unſeparable love and friendſhip: who likewiſe

likewise dealt so effectually for him, that they attained warrant for his passage, and furnished him with all kinde of necessaries and sufficient store of gold to bear his charges.

Lucida likewise intreated her father to agree with the Phrygian Merchants for his convoy, for that himself would not be known, disguising himself in the habit of a Pilgrim, which kinde of people might without disturbance pass unexamined, and without molestation. And the time of his departure being come, he took his leave of Lucida, who took his departure with such exceeding sorrow, that the abundance of her flowing tears stopt the passage of her speech. Alprinus likewise with many curtesies bade him farewel, and wished his prosperous success. Thus departed he the confines of Natolia, where he was in a short space so well beloved, and so kindely used, that had not his love to Artesia, and hope to finde her in health constrained him, he could have been contented to have spent the term of his life in that place.

The Merchants of Phrygia had not sailed many days, but they arrived in a haven some ten miles distant from the Court, whither Orontus determined to travel: and having taken his leave of the Mariners, and paid them their due, furnished with all things fit for his disguise, he took his journey; and the first night lodged at a Village near adjoyning to his fathers Castle, the custome of which place he well knew before, and therefore framed his behaviour according. And being set at Supper amongst such Guests as lodged in the house with him, the Host (named Milo) suddenly sighed, which one of them noting, demanded what inward grief drave him thereto? Marry Sir (quoth he) if you have not heard the news, I will tell you so much as I know, which I would I had never known. Within few dayes, there dwelt an ancient Knight hereby, named Allinus, exceedingly well beloved of all men, who is lately fain into great misery, the occasion whereof is this.

Then did he declare the manner of all that had happened to Allinus, how Artesia was taken from him, but by whom, no man knew; himself in prison, his goods confiscated, and his

Wife

Wife and ſervants turned out of dores, with command that none ſhould ſuccour them.

Ornatus heart was ſo pincht with this news that he was ready to fall under the table; which old Mylo and the reſt noted, perceiving ſuch a change of countenance in him, that they all deemed him to be exceeding ſick; but he fearing to diſcover himſelf, told them it was but an ordinary thing with him to be ſo troubled.

But being unable to mittigate that paſſion, he roſe from the Table and went to his Chamber, where being alone, he began to meditate the depth of theſe miſchances, imputing the original thereof to proceed from himſelf, that he entred into theſe bitter plaints: My misfortunes are without compare, and I more miſerable then any wretch living: By my evil Deſtinies Arteſia was firſt left in miſery, and afterwards impriſoned and now ſurprized by thoſe that will intend her ruine or diſhonor: my Father impriſoned, my Mother baniſhed, and all his lands, livings, friends, and ſervants, taken from him, and he ſubject to Lenons mercy, that is mercileſs, cruel deceitful and malicious.

Onely by my folly are theſe miſchances befaln. Can there be any more wretched then my ſelf? Hath not my Father cauſe to wiſh that he had never begotten me, and my Mother that ſhe had never born me? Hath not Arteſia cauſe to accuſe me, hate me and forſake me; when for my ſake, by my folly and want of wiſedome, ſhe is brought to ſo many miſeries?

What ſhall I do? Or what remedy ſhall I ſeek when all things are paſt recovery? Whom may I blame but my ſelf? Is there any that are intereſſed in the cauſe of theſe woes, but my ſelf? Lenon, Lenon, as well as my ſelf, hath procured theſe evils. his affection to Arteſia hath cauſed my baniſhment, my parents woe and her loſs. To travel in her ſearch and leave my father in priſon the one will be in vain, when I know not whether ſhe is conveyed, and the other dangerous to his ſafety: for Lenon no doubt, of malice will ſeek his death. In theſe and ſuch like plaints, he ſpent moſt part of that night.

Early the next morning comming out of his Chamber, he heard a great tumult in that Village, the occasion whereof was this: Such as were Tenants and friends to Allinus hearing of his unjust imprisonment, and with what cruelty Lenon sought his overthrow, assembled themselves with purpose to intreat the King for his release; that in the end there was three hundred of them assembled. The common people, and such as were idle persons and ready to attempt, misconceiving their intent, and bearing a minde desirous of liberty (which they thought they were restrain'd from by certain strict laws the King had made) gathered unto them, that contrary to their expectation, there was a multitude: the intent of whose assembly being demanded, they answered, that they meant to deliver Allinus: Among whom Ornatus in his disguise thrust himself, using many forcible perswasions to urge them forwards to that attempt, that they were ready to run confusedly to the Court, not regarding danger, nor displeasure of the King.

One of Allinus friends named Thrasus, standing up amongst the rest, craved audience; to whom they all listened, whilest he said as followeth:

I perceive your intent is to release Allinus, wherein you shall shew your love to him, and do a deed worthy to be eternized, for that he hath not in the least deserved to have such injustice ministred unto him: therefore be wise in this attempt, and first know against whom you bear arms, that is, against an Usurping King, who may punish this fact with death: for that we undertake to destroy those laws, which by him and his Councel were enacted.

But follow my counsel, and I will set you down a course whereby you shall attain your desire, and be void of any such danger, which is this: First, let us all unanimously repair to the Court, and humbly petition his Majesty for his enlargement, and restoration of estate; if he will not yeild to that, then that his cause may be tried by the rest of the Peers of the land: Which if he also deny, then may we with good cause venture our lives in his rescue. The multitude hearing Thrasus, in signe

signe of consent generally cried, a Thrasus; Thrasus shall be our Captain.

Then presently every one with such furniture as they had, hasted to the Court, and comming together, would not seem to enter by force, but with a full consent yeilded to Thrasus directions. Who desired one of the Guard to satisfie his Majestie, that there were a number of his subjects gathered together, with no intent of evil, but onely humbly to crave a boon at his Highnes hand. The King being certified hereof, was much troubled in his minde, what the thing should be they would demand: and being perswaded by Lenon, would not himself come out, but sent one of his Knights to demand what was their request: Thrasus declared to him the cause of his comming, and what they demanded. Which when the King understood, being exceedingly enraged at their boldnes, bade the Knight make them this answer: That he was not to be comptrolled by his subjects, and therefore denied to perform any part or parcel of their demand: commanding them immediately to depart every man to their several habitations, lest he punished their presumption with death. The Messenger had no sooner ended his discourse, but presently the unruly multitude began to rush in at the Court gates, some carelesly ruinating whatsoever came next hand, others breaking down Windows, and some assailing such as resisted them; but every one bent to do mischief.

The King fearing the peoples unruly rebellion would turn to some greater mischief then could suddenly be prevented, and might also endanger his person, not knowing who had instigated them thereto, with the Queen and Lenon fled. Which when Thrasus knew, calling to the multitude, he willed them not in any wise to destroy the Kings house, nor attempt any thing else to displease his Majestie for that the King was departed, and he had Allinus at liberty. But notwithstanding, some bent onely to enrich themselves, spoiled the Kings treasure, and utterly defaced the Court: by which time the night drew nigh, and every one began to withdraw themselves, Allinus seeing what

exceeding mischief this attempt had bred, which was done contrary to his thought, and without his consent: Yet he thought it not best to trust to the Kings mercy, though he was never so innocent; for notwithstanding that, he would suppose it was done by his procurement. Therefore (after Thrasus had willed the unruly multitude to depart as secretly as they could, every one to his house, to prevent further danger, and save their lives by keeping themselves unknown) he and Thrasus that night without delay disguised themselves, and fled towards the coast, to get shipping for Armenia, whither they intended to travel.

Ornatus was by, and beheld all this, glad of his Fathers escape, not purposing at all to discover himself until he had found Artesia, in whose search he meant presently to travel: but such confused thoughts whither to direct his steps, did so overwhelm his conceits, that he rested like one metamorphosed, not knowing whether he should seek her by sea, or by land; by sea he thought his labour would be in vain; and if he should go to find her by land, he knew not whether she might be at sea, and so conveyed into forreign Countreys.

At last remembring he had heard Mylo say, that she was rescued from Allinus in the Desart where his cattel fed, he determined to travel thither though he had but little hope to find her there. And being come thither, sometimes bewailing her absence, accusing his hard Fortune, breathing forth most bitter sighs in remembrance of her loss, and renewing the remembrance of their love, he spent some three days in that place, uttering those Plaints to the Trees and Birds, for otherwise there was none to hear him. Where for a while we will leave him.

The Pyrates having (as is before said) taken Artesia from Allinus, and with her such wealth as they could find about them, having withal furnished themselves with the spoil of such cattel as fed in those places, returned to their ship, and with hast hoised sail.

The night being now past, one that was chief amongst the rest, named Luprates, went down to view Artesia, having as yet

not

not seen her beauty, by reason of the night: And now comming near her, and beholding her divine form, his mind was presently ravished with that sight, and he thought that none but himself should enjoy her; which took such efficacy, that whereas before he intended nothing but her dishonor, his mind was now altered, and he intended to use her in most reverent and decent sort, and not by cruelty but courtesie to win her love. But beholding her tears and excæding lamentation, and how impatiently she endured the extremities she was driven unto, comming towards her with a most submiss gesture, friendly countenance, and gentle spæch, he said.

Fair Lady, be not any thing disquieted that you are made captive to such as delight in spoil; for though our minds are otherwise bent to all incivility, yet to your self shall no wrong be offered, such vertue hath your beauty imprinted in my heart; and whereas heretofore, without mercy, both I and the rest of my consorts have not regarded the plaints, distress, nor what wrong we have offered either to Lady or Damzel; yet towards your self is my heart altered, and my meaning honestly bent, that I assure you not onely of quiet, and to be void of all wrong by us to be done; but also wherein soever I may work your will, quiet, ease, or desire, I will most willingly imploy my uttermost endeavours: Then I beseech you mittigate these cares, banish this sorrow, and dry up your tears; for you have no cause of cars nor occasion of sorrow; but rather to say, this vertue resteth in me, to alter rude and barbarous minds to civil and vertuous behaviour.

Artesia looking earnestly upon him, being endued with an excæding wit, and thinking it best to speak him fair that used her so kindly, said: Sir, I know not how to mittigate my grief when it encreaseth; for how can I be void of care, unless I should grow altogether careless, being onely subject to woe, neither is there any so unfortunate as my self, having endured so many afflictions and crosses in all respects, as that I know not how to assure my self of the least quiet? Then give me leave to continue my endless plaints, and do not blame me of

impatiency, nor think I suspect your speeches, or distrust your fidelity, if in some sort I continue my sorrows: for I have so long continued in them, as I can better away with them then mirth, for joy to me is a stranger. Yet notwithstanding, my heart will harbour some quiet, if by your curtesie I may rest in security, and by your means be sheltred from wrong. By this time they were arrived at their place of harbor, which was betwixt the hollow of two Rocks or rather rocky Islands, where their Ship lay safe from weather, and so far under their shadow, that it could not be seen: themselves conveying thither such wealth as they from time to time got, in hollow caves of great largeness, where was all things necessary. And having fastened their ship, the rest of Luprates fellows called him up: who came and brought Artesia into the Cave; which when she beheld, she was surprised with an exceeding discomfort of ever getting from thence.

Some of the ruder sort liking Artesia, began their rude behaviour towards her; but Luprates stepping unto them, uttered these speeches: My masters, thus long have I lived your Captain in this place with care, respecting your good as much as mine own, and taking but an equal share with you of such prizes as we have taken, and rather the least part: now onely in respect of my faith and fidelity, I request to have this Damzel as my prize, the rest of the wealth take you, in doing which you shall binde me unto you for ever.

One of the rest liking Artesias beauty as well as he, and of a rude minde, disdaining that he alone should have her in possession, said: Captain, all which you say, we confess to be true, neither hath our care been any less then yours, therefore there is no reason why you should claim any peculiar privilege above any of us; besides, you know we made a law, and bound our selves to perform the same by Oath, which was: That none should possess any thing, without the general consent of all. Then perform those conditions, and let her belong to us all, or to the chiefest of us, and in so doing, neither of us shall sustain wrong. Thus began they contend about Artesia, every one desirous

ſtrous to poſſeſs her, and yet neither willing any ſhould have her but himſelf, that they were like to mutiny and fall out; till at the laſt they concluded to caſt lots, and ſhe fell to Luprates, he being moſt worthy of that priviledge, for that he bare the moſt vertuous minde.

Thus for a time this ſtrife was ended, and Arteſia was by Luprates kindely uſed for many days: at length, their victuals began to waſte, and they thought it high time to ſeek for more, and they determined to fetch in ſome as before they had done. But then began Luprates to take care in whoſe cuſtody to leave Arteſia, leſt in his abſence they ſhould do her wrong. Amongſt the reſt, he choſe out one whom he thought fitteſt, and to him he committed her: by whoſe means Arteſia reſted void of diſturbance, though not void of exceeding care, that continually tormented her, fearing never to ſee Ornatus again nor to be releaſed from that place of bondage.

Chap. XII.

How *Ornatus* found *Arteſia*, and preſerved her life: and how ſhe was taken from him again by *Lenon*: and what afterwards befell them.

Luprates and the reſt being landed, came in the night into the Plains to ſteal Cattle, and by chance lighted on the place where Ornatus hanted, being directed to him by the ſound of his lamentations. Luprates demanded what he was? I am (quoth he) a moſt miſerable creature, by misfortune driven to all extremity. Then (quoth he) thou art not for our company; and with that they departed leaving him there.

Ornatus heart began preſently to miſdoubt, that they were the very ſame that had taken Arteſia from Allinus; which made him preſently ſtudy how to have them apprehended: and remembring that he had heard many complain that their Cattle were often

often stoln, he supposed them verily to be the Theives; that with all the hast he could, he ran to the next Village, and raised the Townsmen, telling them what he had seen: who presently issued out, and with such weapons as came next to hand, followed the Pyrates, and soon found them, setting upon them, and immediately took two of them, but the rest, some sore wounded and hurt fled to their ship, and with all the hast they could made to their harbour.

Early the next morning, the inhabitants conveyed the Pyrates to Court, who being come before the King, confest the manner of their life, and where they lived. Lenon presently supposed that they were the very same that had taken away Artesia from Allinus, and demanding the same of them they told him that there was such a Damsel in their Cave, and that she told them her name was Artesia. Then Lenon without delay, strongly accompanied rode to the next Haven, and there got shipping, steering his course by the Pyrates directions, to finde out their Fort.

Likewise Ornatus, after he had raised the people, secretly followed the Pyrates unto the place where their ship lay, and amongst the rest entred the same: who by reason of their hast and exceeding fear, regarded him not; who thrust himself into that danger, onely to see if Artesia were in their custody, not reckoning how his life might be endangered thereby: but the Pyrates by Luprates directions, hastened to the Fort, and from thence took Artesia into their ship, not daring to stay there, for that they knew some of their fellowes were taken, who might by compulsion be constrained to reveal the place of their abode. Ornatus no sooner espied Artesia but he knew her, and his heart leapt within him for joy to see that happy sight; but he durst not speak to her, nor scarce settle his eys to behold her, for fear of suspect, for that Luprates marvelling how he came amongst them, demanded what he was, and what he made there? I am (quoth he) a poor Pilgrim, that against my will by some of this company was constrained to come aboard. Luprates believing he said true, made no further question; but with hast sailed from

Phrygia,

Phrygia, conveying Arteſia into his Cabbin, uſing many ſpeeches to comfort her.

They had not ſailed many hours, but a contrary Wind began to ariſe, and the Heavens were darkened with thick clouds and ſuch a mightie Tempeſt aroſe, that the ſhip was by violence driven back, their main Maſt broken and thrown over-bord, and all in danger of deſtruction, had not the land been near: for the ſhip driven by violence of the ſea ran aground, and there ſplit in ſunder, and the Pirates with great hazard eſcaped drowning: none of them (nor Luprates) once regarding Arteſia: but Ornatus ſeeing in what peril ſhe was, caught hold on her, and getting on a plank, being very skilful in ſwimming, with great trouble, got her ſafely on land, and preſerved her from drowning.

He was no ſooner paſt danger, but Luprates would have taken her from him: but Ornatus ſeeing none but himſelf there, and all the reſt fled for fear, told him; ſince he had forſaken her in extremitie, he was not worthy of her; and therefore ſhould not have her. Villain (quoth Luprates) yeild her me with quiet, or elſe thy life ſhall not detain her. With that Ornatus caught hold on a bord, which he cleft in ſunder with his foot, and with the ſame gave Luprates ſo ſudden and deadly a wound, that the blood fell out about the place, and he died. By this time the ſtorm was quite over-paſt: and Ornatus ſeeing his vertuous love very weak with fear and diſtemperature; led her by the arm unto a Mollie Bank, where the Suns bright beams had full force to dry her garments dropping with wet.

Arteſia ſeeing how civil and tenderly this ſtranger regarded her, and with what pains he had preſerved her, when ſhe was of all but him abjured and utterly forſaken, and left to the merce of the mercileſs waves, being willing to ſhew that ſhe was grateful, ſaid: Sir, the pains you have taken, and friendſhip you have ſhown to me, deſerve more thanks and recompence, then I am able to give: and therefore I deſire you to think that if I were able, I would requite the ſame: but my

miſfortunes are ſo exceeding, that they with-hold me from doing that I would; onely thanks is the ſmall requital I can yeild, in token of a grateful minde, being by your means at more quiet then many dayes I have been, though more diſquieted then you would judge: but now I rely upon your vertues, with hope thereby to be preſerved, and not driven to further miſery.

Fair Lady (quoth Ornatus) my life ſhall be ſpent in your defence; neither will I part from you, until I have brought you to the place which you deſire: requeſting you to make no doubt of my loyalty. I ſuppoſe your name is Arteſia, becauſe (quoth he) in my travels I have met a Gentleman of this Country named Ornatus, of whom I learned the truth of many of your miſfortunes: who I aſſure you is in good health. O bleſſed news quoth ſhe) then will I hope once again to ſée my dear Ornatus, whoſe abſence hath béen my onely cauſe of woe.

She had ſcarce ended theſe words, but Ornatus eſpied a ſhip even then come aſhore where theirs was caſt away and moſt of the men landed; which was the ſhip wherein Lenon was: who beheld the other ſhip caſt away, and the ſtorm being ceaſed arrived there; from whom Ornatus knew not how to hide himſelf, nor did Arteſia dream of Lenons being in it, but thought it to be ſome ſhip that likewiſe by the ſtorm was driven to land there. Preſently the men began to ſpread themſelves every way, and ſome of them ſoon eſpied Arteſia, giving Lenon knowledg thereof, who immediately came towards her, moſt kindely ſaluting her; but ſhe being exceedingly diſmayed with his ſight, whom ſhe moſt mortally hated, for very grief burſt into tears, that in abundance guſht from her eys.

Lenon marvelling thereat (and little thinking how much ſhe hated him, and how unwelcome he was) rather expecting thanks for his pains then reproof, ſaid: My dear Arteſia, be not now diſcomforted, ſince there is no further cauſe of care, I have moſt diligently laboured to releaſe you from grief, ever ſince Allimus by treaſon conveyed you from my cuſtody, taking your abſence in great heavineſs, for that it pinched my heart to think

you

you should fall into such distress: but now that all those misfortunes are past I beseech you go with me to the Court, where I will labour to procure your content. Artesias heart was bereaved to hear his speeches, that she made him this answer:

Most discourteous Lenon, none but your self is cause of my woe, whose sight more tormenteth me then all the afflictions I ever endured: Allinus carried me indeed from the grēn Fortress, not by treason but to shelter me from dishonour, which you did intend, else would you not have suffered me to endure such misery as I did by my hellish kæper. Think you I have cause either to think you intend my good, or take any comfort by your presence, when you onely disquiet me, not suffering me to enjoy my liberty, but would by force constrain me to that I cannot like. Had you left me in Adellenaes house, then had I not fain into such misery as I have since endured: nor Allinus for his vertue have bēn brought to poverty; who being before my professed Enemy, seeing my misery, it so mollified his heart, that he pitied me and sought my liberty; and since by cruelty, not by justice, have you sought his overthrow. Then I beseech you leave me here, for I had rather endure the hazard of my misfortune, then live to be tormented with your importunacy.

Lenon was so amazed to hear her unkind reply, little thinking he had been so much out of her favour, that he could not tell what to say: sometimes thinking to leave her there, and utterly to forsake her, but that thought was soon overcome by his affection, or earnest desire he had to enjoy her; and once again he said: Why Artesia do you regard my good will no more, then for my pains to yeild me rebukes, and for my love disdain? That I caused you to be brought from Adellenaes house, was, for that being there you were subject to many misfortunes. And if I imprisoned Allinus, it was for that I supposed him your Enemy and feared he would have done you wrong: so that whatsoever I did with intent of good, you repay me with dislike, and convert all my doings to the worst meaning; wherein you shew your self too cruel, that will not yeild me the least favour for my constant love; Dear Artesia be not so hard hearted. Artesia,

notwithstanding many fair promises, vowes, and protestations he made, would not yeild to go with him, but desired rather that he would leave her there. Lenon entreated her, if not for his sake, yet for her safety it were best for her to go: which said, he commanded his servants to place her in a Litter, which when she saw she must needs do, she called to Ornatus saying: Good Palmer go along with me that for the kindnes you have shown in preserving my life, I may yeild you some recompence. And (quoth she to Lenon) I request nothing of you for my self, but for this strange Pilgrim, who (when by the storm the ship was cast away, and I ready to perish) caught me out of the water, and preserved my life: and do not for his good will to me, use him as you did my dear Silvia, whom you banished, for that she preserved my life from my unkinde Uncle: with that she wept exceedingly. Then Lenon asked Ornatus what he was? I am quoth he (as you see) a Pilgrim, that was forced to come aboard the Pyrates ship, and (amongst the rest) was ready to perish, but that by the divine providence, I was ordained to preserve that vertuous Gentlewomans life. For that very deed (quoth Lenon) I will reward you most liberally: therefore go along with us. And so they all together departed to the Court.

Lenon presently caused Artesia to be lodged in a most sumptuous palace in the Court, appointing divers Damzels to attend her, thinking by that means to win her to consent to love him: but all proved vain, his care was cast away, his cost to little effect, and his kindnes unregarded. For Artesia was so constant to Ornatus, that she hated Lenon: for her heart was totally imployed to wish his good, and Lenons ill: for she determined not to love him, though she was assured of Ornatus death. Thus she spent her time in continual care and sadnes, shewing no signe of joy, nor shadow of comfort, but even as one that regarded no rest, nor took felicity in any thing: that Lenon both admired the same, and laboured by many means to alter that humour: but the more he sought to please her, the more she was displeased, and more discontented at his kindnes, then

any

any thing elſe. In this ſort ſhe continued many days, without the leaſt ſhew of alteration.

Ornatus all this while remaining in the Court, making the cauſe of his ſtay to receive Lenons promiſed reward; whereas indeed he ſtayed to ſee what would become of Arteſia, or by what means to get her from thence. To effect which, he ſaw no poſſible means, nor could in many dayes come to ſee Arteſia, which filled his heart with grief; only comforting himſelf with remembring her conſtant loyaltie. And one day, being by himſelf alone, he entred into theſe cogitations. Ornatus, thou haſt remained many dayes in this place, kept from thy love, and ſought no means to ſet thy heart at reſt, or ſet her at libertie. Doeſt thou make no more account of her love, then to attempt nothing to attain the ſame? Or are thy ſpirits of no more courage, that they will do nothing: thy wit ſo ſhallow that thou canſt deviſe no ſtratagem: or thy minde ſo cowardly, thou dareſt not revenge the wrong Lenon doth thee? What though he be the Prince and heir of this land? is not both he and his father hated ruling by uſurpation and cruelty? and hath he not unjuſtly ſought the ruine of thy friends? Can Arteſia think either valour or vertue reſteth in thee, when ſhe ſhall know how near thou art to her? ſo, but dareſt not touch him? will ſhe not eſteem thee a coward, and unworthy to enjoy her love? nay, when ſhe knoweth this will ſhe not alter her love? why ſhouldeſt thou not ſeek thine own content, though it be with his diſcontent? thou art every way as good as he by birth, though he now rule the land. Hath not thy father ſaid; that his father was but a Captain in the late Kings days, and traytor-like murthered his ſoveraign, and aſſumed his title? Then revive thy ſpirits ſeem not to be diſmaied with any danger, fear not misfortune; ſeek to releaſe thy love, and venture thy life therein; for living thus, thou ſhalt be deprived of her love: Lenon will by force or fair means overcome her, and then thou maiſt blame this delay. The King is now ſick, and he being dead, Lenon muſt reign, who then may do what he liſt: then take the advantage of the time, and do not fruſtrate thy bleſſed hope, with ſlothful delay.

Having ended this meditation, he then began to study how to perform his will, wherin he found many contrarieties: but presently he beheld Lenon entring the Court, before whom he stood so opposite that he could not chuse but note him, and withall, remembred how earnestly Artesia had entreated him on the Pilgrims behalf, whom he thought she esteemed: when suddenly this cogitation arose in his fancy, to use him as an instrument to win her love: that calling Ornatus unto him he said: Pilgrim, I pray thee blame me not for forgetting to perform my promise made to Artesia, as concerning thee, which I have not neglected for want of good will, but by reason of thousands of cares that daily torment me, onely procured by her unkindness: but if thou wilt undertake on my behalf to perswade her to yeild my just request, for that I think thou maist prevail with her above any, I will not onely reward thy former kindness so shown to her, but also for thy pains herein promote thee to high dignity: therfore I pray thee give consent to follow my counsel herein. Ornatus was willing to be imployed in that business, which fell out according to his hearts desire, and therfore made him this answer: My noble Lord, for that I perceive your intent is vertuous, I will be ready to follow your directions, and do you any service I can: wherin I know not whether I shall prove fortunate or no, but I assure you that I will deal both faithfully and effectually, in that which I shall undertake. Lenon was as glad as he, that he had yeilded to do that which he thought least to perform, and therfore presently gave command that the Pilgrim onely should have her in custodie. Artesia marvelled that her Keepers were changed, misdoubting some intent of hard usage: but when she saw it was the Pilgrim to whose custody she was committed, her heart was comforted.

Chap. XIII.

How *Ornatus* had the cuſtody of *Arteſia*: How he diſcovered himſelf unto her. How *Allinus* and *Thraſus* arrived in Armenia, and got the King to ſend Embaſſadors into Phrygia.

Ornatus at his firſt comming, found her ſitting in the darkeſt corner of the Chamber, bewailing her misfortune; with ſalt tears bedewing her crimſon cheeks, her ornaments diſorderly put on, and her golden treſſes hanging careleſly down, which added a luſtre to her ſweet beauty, and though diſordered, moſt comely: leaning her arm upon a Chair, and her cheek laid upon the back of her hand. When he beheld her ſitting in this diſcomfortable ſort, his heart was ready to melt with remorſe, and he breathed forth ſo bitter a ſigh that ſhe heard the ſame; which he perceiving, came towards her with humble behaviour, ſaying:

Moſt vertuous Lady, pardon my preſumption, in preſuming thus unmannerly to interrupt your quiet, Lenon the Prince, hath appointed me to be your attendant; therefore I beſeech you (notwithſtanding I am his ſubſtitute) command me in any dutiful ſort, and I will moſt willingly imploy my uttermoſt endeavour to purchaſe your content. Arteſia raiſing her ſelf from the ground, ſaid: Pilgrim, I thank you for your kinde proffer, and am glad you are my Keeper, for two cauſes; one for that I truſt your vertues will not ſuffer me to be injured; the other, for that I would hear out your diſcourſe of my dear friend Ornatus, which I was hindred from by Lenons ſudden finding me. Lady (qd. he) you ſhall be aſſured of the one, and hear more of the other, if firſt you will vouchſafe without offence to hear my ſpeech, and ſuffer me to execute the charge Lenon hath given me, and I have undertaken. Why what is that (qd. Arteſia) I will not be offended? Lenon hath made known to me his love, and how long, and with what conſtancie it is grounded, commanding

manding and intreating me, in his behalf to become an humble suitor unto you: he telleth me, that still you ungently disdain him, without cause reason, or consideration; therefore I humbly desire; because he is constant a Prince, and vertuously resolved, yeild to his love, or else give me satisfaction why you cannot condiscend to his request.

Pilgrim (quoth she) for that my mind perswadeth me, you in wisedome will conceive of reason, and will be faithful to conceal that which I shall disclose. I answer you thus: First admit Leon did love me (yet by his usage I finde the contrary) I cannot fancy him, for that I already have plighted my faith to another more worthy then himself, which is that most vertuous and deserving Gentleman Ornatus who likewise equalleth me in affection; and therefore I should dishonour my name, break my faith, and reap perpetual infamie, if I should shew my self so inconstant. These I think are reasons (to a reasonable creature) sufficient; and of such force as none can contradict: and I can say no more therein. Besides, were not all this so, you have no reason to perswade me to that which I have so often denied, and will never yeild to.

Your reasons (quoth he) are great, and the cause such as should no way be violated; but now you are subject to his mercy, and he may enforce you to that which you are most unwilling to have done: then what remedie have you but rather to yeild, then endure such extremity as he may use. Quoth she, when I can preserve my self no longer from his lust, death shall rid me from his power, which I will execute upon my self, rather then condiscend to yeild him so much as an outward shew of favour. Therefore I pray you use no more words tending to the breach of my faith, and furtherance of his love: for knew you but how hateful his name is unto me, and how odious to think of his doting love, you would not onely desist to torment me with the sound of that ominous Monster, but rather to seek to comfort my distressed estate, and poor pining heart, almost drowned with sorrow, being more unfortunate then ever any was, by these afflictions, and the love of my dear Ornatus, whose

presence

presence should release me from this thraldome, and labyrinth of discontent: Of whom if you can tell me any tydings, I beseech you impart them unto me, thereby to add comfort to mitigate my care.

Ornatus was so ravished to hear her utter such heavenly speeches, that he had much ado to refrain from embracing her, uttering these speeches: How happy is Ornatus by attaining the love of so vertuous and constant a Lady, worthy to be admired, eternized, and ever to be honoured? What comfort may these pleasing words bring to his heart? What torment can he not account pleasure endured for so sweet a Ladies safety? And what pains should he refuse, to procure her sweet content? O Artesia! divine Artesia! Ornatus is not able to express his content, nor your desert; and unable to recompence your kindness, rests everlastingly bound to you, in all firm bands of faithful loyalty. In your heart is the harbor of true loyalty, grounded upon vertuous love; then how happy is he, by being enriched and possest with such a love? His reward is greater then his pain; his pleasure more then ever his sorrow could be; his gains a thousand times beyond his loss. Why should I then conceal the truth of his safety from you? With that he said: Behold Artesia your Ornatus; with that he discovered himself unto her, and she perfectly knew him, being almost amazed with that heavenly sight: and then with a sweet behaviour they both embraced each other, intermingling their kisses with tears of joy, that in abundance distilled from their eyes: surfetting so much in that sweet delight, that they were loth to part, but that fear to be espied compelled them; taking such exceeding comfort in each others presence, as is not to be expresst: withall, using many kindnesses usual betwixt faithful friends, to express their joy: he sometimes embracing her, and she again with a sweet kiss welcomming him: bring so many, so kind and hearty, as would ask a skilful description. At last, having somewhat recreated themselves, and with sudden joy banished some part of their care, they thought it time to study how to procure their happiness, lest the same might again

be crost by Lenon, who by that time expected to hear from her. Therefore Ornatus said, my most dear and kind wife Artesia, by whose love my life is preserved, I am not able to express the joy my heart conceiveth by this fortunate meeting, being likewise as sorrie to think of the misfortunes you have endured by my careless oversight; but to prevent them hereafter, I will studie to release you out of Lenons custodie, who will leave no means unattempted to accomplish his desire.

Therefore in this extremitie, if you will be contented to esteem me as your friend, and follow my directions, I will labour to purchase your freedome. Most true friend Ornatus (said Artesia) I have dedicated my self to your disposition and make my self all one with you, both in heart, bodie and minde, that whatsoever you would wish your self, you do to me and whatsoever pleaseth you, cannot displease me: I am your self, therefore I commit all things to your wisedome, and rest to be ruled, counselled, and ordered by you, in whatsoever you shall think convenient; and will do any thing you shall counsell me unto, both for our escape from hence, or otherwise: accounting my bliss yours, and yours mine, your care mine, and your quiet my content. Lenons love is hateful to me, and injurious to you; therefore work what means you will, to free me and revenge your own wrongs, and my consent is readie to yeild to any thing you shall think convenient.

I most humbly thank you, said Ornatus; and first I think it best to procure my good liking with him, which to accomplish, at his next comming shew more respect to him then formerly, so he perceiving I have been serviceable to him, will not only credit me, but be ruled by me and in all things follow my counsel this performed on your part, refer the rest to me. My dear Ornatus, at your request I will do this, which otherwise I would never have consented to; and shall desire God to deliver us from forth of his power, and send us peaceably to enjoy each others love: these speeches ended, they parted with a sweet kiss, he sighing, and she for grief shedding tears.

Not long after Lenon came to Ornatus, desiring to know whether

ther he had prevailed any thing with Artesia in his behalf. My Lord (quoth he) I have used many perswasions to her, which in some sort have prevailed, but hereafter I doubt not but by my perswasions to win her full consent, if you with wisdome will be directed by me, and not with rashness mar all: therefore go in unto her, but not too rashly, and see if she be not altered. Lenon embraced him in his arms, saying; thou bringest me tidings of exceeding comfort, for which I will reward thee most bountifully; with that he gave him a purse of gold: which Ornatus took, thinking that should be a means to further him, and hinder the giver. Lenon entred Artesias Chamber, using many kinde speeches, and submissive behaviours whom she used more kindely then ever she had before done: which both filled his heart with joy, and made him according to the Pilgrims directions, more careful of his behaviour, lest by any boldness he might offend her: that having past some smal time with her, he departed.

Now was Ornatus studying how to release Artesia, to further whose intent, the occasion thus fell out. Allinus and Thrasus, as is before said gate shipping for Armenia, and arrived there with safetie: first directing their course to the Kings pallace, where Allinus was most honourably entertained, being somewhat allied to the King, to whom he declared both the cause of his exile, and the injurie done to him by Thæon King of Phrygia. Turbulus King of Armenia comforted him all that he could, and bade him withall request any thing at his hands, and he would grant it him. Allinus alledging many things to perswade Turbulus to yeild thereto, requested him to send Embassadors into Phrygia, either to request performance of certain Articles, or else to give him open defiance for war. The Articles were these. That Allinus should be restored to his lands, and the dammage and loss he had sustained should be repaied to the full: that his wife should be recalled from banishment, and that he should yeild up Artesia to Allinus, if she would be in his custodie; and that the King and Lenon should be sworn to perform all this. Turbulus was easily won, and therefore presently sent

four of his Noblemen as Embassadours, to request the performance of certain conditions: Who when they were landed in Phrygia, and news thereof was brought to the Court, the King being himself somewhat sickly, sent Lenon to meet them, and give them entertainment, who was loth to go from Artesias sight, but assuring himself of the Pilgrims faith, committed her wholly to his custody. Ornatus thought it now the fittest time to seek to escape, but he was hindred by other of Lenons servants, whom he had secretly appointed as over-seers, to look into the Pilgrims actions: that it was impossible for him to attempt any thing that way, but it must needs be discovered and prevented. Ornatus seeing he was disappointed that way, made Artesia acquainted with what he intended, and how he was prevented: spending the time of Lenons absence continually in her company.

Lenon having met the Armenian Embassadors, brought them to the Court, where they were honourably entertained: and having declared their Embassage, Thæon the King told them they should receive answer within two dayes. Lenon hearing the Articles, counselled his father not to yeild to performe any such conditions but rather to send Turbulus defiance. For (qd. he) your Majestie is as absolutely a King of Phrygia as he is of Armenia: and then what dishonour were it for you to stoop to his command, and shew your self as it were afraid of his threats? For to binde your self to this were to become his subject, which would soon be published through the whole world to your dishonour. The King being over-ruled by his perswasions gave the Embassadours this answer: That he meant not not to performe the least of those Articles they demanded, nor feared the Kings threats of war, for that he was able to deal with a mightier Fo then he: Using many other words, and some of reproach: so that the Armenians denounced open war, as they were commanded, and departed.

Chap. XIV.

How *Ornatus* ſtaying too late in *Arteſiaes* Chamber, was accuſed by *Lenons* ſervants, whom he ſlew. How *Allinus* with a Band of Armenians landed in Phrygia: And how *Ornatus* was impriſoned.

THæon knew that the King of Armenia would perform his word, and therefore gave Lenon charge to muſter up men throughout the whole Land: committing the chief charge of the Army, and ordering of theſe affairs, unto him: who more hardy-bold then wiſe, undertook all, and in ſhort ſpace had gathered an exceeding great Armie, and furniſhed certain ſhips, to meet with the Armenians by ſea: if it might be poſſible, to vanquiſh them before they ſhould land.

Theſe troubles filled the Commons hearts with griefe, and their mouths with murmurings; for they underſtanding, that the King of Armenia did offer War to Phrygia, in the behalf of Allinus that was generally beloved; there was few of thoſe that were preſt to thoſe Wars, but came unwillingly, or rather by conſtraint, being more ready to turn their ſword points againſt Thæon, then againſt Allinus.

Ornatus likewiſe hearing of theſe Wars, by his wiſdom found out the opinion of the multitude, and with what unwillingneſs they came to the Wars: And being in ſome ſort aſſured thereof, he came to the Camp, and amongſt all the reſt of his familiars, eſpied Phylaſtes, who always loved him moſt dearly, him he knew to be of a moſt faithful and conſtant reſolution in performing his promiſe, and was by Lenon appointed one of the chiefeſt Leaders. Ornatus finding him ſomewhat remote from the Camp, came to him, and after ſalutation, ſaid: Sir Phylaſtes, I am ſent unto you by a dear friend of yours, named Ornatus, who trucketh ſo much in your vertues, that he is willing to put his life into your hands, which you ſhal hazard

in denying him one small favour, which with safety you may grant: first therefore I request but your promise for your warrant, and then I will declare what I have in charge.

My friend (quoth Phylastes) thou tellest me news of wonder, when thou saiest thou comest from Ornatus, whom I fear is long since dead, but if thou knowest the contrary, and canst resolve me thereof: I promise and swear to perform whatsoever thou shalt demand; for I am sure Ornatus knoweth that I love him, nor maketh any doubt thereof: which if he do, he injureth that love and friendship which hath past between us.

Then kinde sir (quoth he) Ornatus is not dead but in safetie, and I am that Ornatus, who notwithstanding my speech, make no doubt of your love.

Phylastes beholding his countenance, knew him well, and for joy caught him in his arms: My dear friend Ornatus (qd. he) I am glad of your safetie, and let me be accursed, if I do not any thing you shall command.

I thank you, quoth Ornatus. To enter into the tedious discourse of our afflictions, would take up too much time; but in few words I will tell you all. I loved Artesia long, but found no hope nor means to attain my love; which made me disguise my self into womens apparel, naming my self Silvia, and was unfortunately entertained by Arbastus, whose death I found to be acted by Floretus: who falling in love with me, told me, for my sake he would poison Artesia at the Lodge, whither he conveyed her. I fearing to have her taken from me, and having won her love, told her his intent, and conveyed her to Adellenaes house: then Floretus and Lenon came thither, demanding her of me: whom I told I had poisoned according to his counsel: then was I carried before the King, and banished into Natolia; from whence returning in this disguise, I obtained the custodie of Artesia, the manner I will tell you at more leisure. Now my dear Phylastes, my desire is to change my place with you; you to have the custodie of Artesia in my Palmers weeds, and I to march in the field in your armour: which if you grant, you shall binde me unto you for ever.

Phylastes

Phylastes yeilded to fulfil his request: and so for that time they parted, appointing to meet the nert day.

Ornatus being come to Artesia told her where he had been, and what he intended; which made Artesia sad, dissuading him from his purpose in this sort: My dear Love, what need you venture your person in the dangers that are incident to War? Will you leave me here in doubt, and not rather stay with me to my comfort? There are enow besides, and too many in the field, and Phylastes is able to execute his own place. Then I beseech you do not leave me in discomfort: for how can I be void of care, when I shall think you are amongst so many enemies readie to be slaughtered? My dear Love (quoth he) that which I will do, shall be without any hazard at all, but shall procure both our contents: Then I beseech you remit this care for my safetie, for I will preserve my self from danger for your sake. Besides, Phylastes vertue is such, as you need not once so much as think amiss of him, who I know would venture his life for my sake. Besides my honour urgeth me, revenge of the injuries done to your self and me, and my fathers safetie, are reasons sufficient to perswade your consent: besides many other causes alike forcible, too tedious to recite. Then I beseech you deny me not; for when it shal be known that my father was in arms in the field, and I in this place regardless to aid him, it will turn to my great dishonor; and those that before did esteem well of me, will then begin to hate me: then let not your doubt and true love to me hinder my determination, for in mine honour your safetie and my fathers life dependeth.

Artesia seeing she could by no means dissuade him, thought not to let him depart so suddenly; but clasping her tender arms about his neck, a thousand times kist his lips, whilest with abundance of tears she bedewed his manly cheeks. Ornatus took great sorrow at her heavinesse, and delight in her embracings, that the contrarieties of his conceits were exceeding; pleasure it self being more pleasant intermingled with care, and care a pleasure to be endued with such delight. Artesia was loth to let Ornatus depart that night, for that she feared he would be in

danger

danger the next day, and he as unwilling to leave her in sorrow: she on the one side solacing her self in his company, he by her kindness making him to forget to depart, that before they were aware Night was come, and well spent, and Ornatus then bethinking himself, thought it was too late to depart. And Artesia hearing him make a motion to be gone, desired him to stay; and yet my dear Ornatus (quoth she) do not endanger your self for my sake, for should Lenons servants finde you here, it might redound to your great disquiet. Ornatus likewise well considering the inconvenience, took his leave of her, and left her shedding abundance of tears. Ornatus being gone, found the servants awake, and watching his coming out, one of them saying: Pilgrim, what maketh thee so sawcie as to court my Masters love? Is this a fit time of the night to be in her chamber? My Lord shall understand your behaviour, and what familiaritie is betwixt you: we take you to be some counterfeit, else would not such behaviour pass betwixt you as we have beheld; therefore here shall you stay, until we give him notice of your doings and disloialtie: with that they lockt fast the dore, not suffering him to go out or in; Ornatus by that perceiv'd that they had seen the kindness between him and Artesia, which he knew if Lenon should understand, he would finde out what he was: these thoughts troubled his heart exceedingly, that he was assured unless he could be rid of them, there was no means to escape death, if Lenon should know him. With these studies he sate a good while silent, till he perceived them incline to sleep, and casting his eye aside, espied a Bill hanging upon the wall, to which he stole secretly, and taking hold of the same he drew towards them, entring into these meditations. And shall I now commit murther, and endanger my soul by so hainous a sinne? What will Artesia say when she hears thou art so bloudily bent, and that thou art so hard hearted as to shed thine own Countrimens bloud? Ornatus be well advised before thou do this deed, and bethink of some other means to avoid the danger thou art ready to fall into. Seek other means Ornatus! yea, but what other means hast thou? None at all. Dost thou not see how they

have betraied thée, and made thée priſoner: what then needeſt thou make a queſtion to ſave thy ſelf, and by their deaths preſerve thine own life, which if thou permitteſt them to live will be in jeeparoy. but they being removed, thou art ſecure. With that lifting up his arms with more then wonted force, he ſmote the one on the head. and beat out his brains, wherewith the other began to awake; but in his awaking he ſtrook him ſo full on the breaſt, that the Bill piere'd his heart and he lay ſprawling in his gore. This done, Ornatus found a Vault, and into the ſame he conveied their dead bodies, purpoſing never to reveal what he had done: then returning he bethought himſelf of the keyes, which he had thrown into the Vault with their bodies, devilling how to get out without ſuſpicion of the deed he had done; but he was enforced to take the Bill, and by main force wrung aſunder the Locks. His minde being exceedingly affrighted with theſe cares, he entred into Arteſiaes Chamber, to ſee whether he had diſquieted her with the noiſe, or no: her he found in bed and faſt aſleep, with the light ſtill burning by her bed-ſide, her breaſts uncovered down to her waſte, and nothing to ſhrowd her from his perfect view, but the ſingle ſhæt, that lay carelelly caſt over her tender bodie; her arms caſt to either ſide of the bed, and her head leaning on the one ſide, with ſo ſweet an aſpect, as would have ravished a thouſand beholders. Ornatus heart was ſo revived to behold this ſweet ſight, that the remembrance thereof, had baniſhed all remembrance of his troubles paſt, and affected his heart with incomparable delight, that he ſtood like one amazed to behold her ſweet beauties, and to take a ſurfetting view of theſe her perfections ſo amiably laid forth. Arteſia ſuddenly awaking, bluſht to ſee him ſo nigh yet therewith more comforted then diſmayed, ſhe caught the cloaths and covered her ſelf, whileſt he folding his hand in hers, deſired pardon for his boldneſs: but ſhe viewing him well, beheld his pale and ghaſtly countenance, which drave her into fear, and raiſing her ſelf upright in her bed, caught him in her arms, asking what ailed him to look ſo pale? My dear Arteſia (qd. he) ſince I parted from you, I have endured great

danger, and past through a hell of calamities which now I fear not; with that he let his head fal into her swéet bosom, and there made the period of his speech, feeling her tender heart pant with the motions of her troubled spirit: In which place he rested it a good while, whilest she with her soft hand curled his hair, and with sweet kisses mollified his lips; using many other familiarities and sweet favours, proceeding from the depth of kinde love; wherewith Ornatus was so ravished, that he not only took heavenly comfort therein, but also desired a further content and possession of her love, which he never before asked, nor thought she would grant; but being heartned by the assurance of her love, he used a more familiar behaviour, which she permitted. But at last, growing more bold then she thought convenient for her modestie to permit, with a kinde and lovely behaviour, she both blamed and hindred him: But the motions of affection so far prevailed with them both that he desired and she inwardly yeelded, though outwardly she refused. But his behaviour, her own love, the present occasion, so fit opportunitie, their hearts unitie, and other sweet enticements so far prevailed, that she yeelded up her unspotted bodie, and pure chastitie to his possession; giving up the interest of her heart, love, and bodie, to him that persued the possession of those riches with earnestnes. Sometimes blushing, sometimes chiseking, and yet yeelding; denying, and yet granting; willing and unwilling: yet at last she gave that she could not recall, and let him possess her spotless virginitie. Which being past, her heart panted with the motion, and she felt her senses sad; a little repenting, yet not altogether sorrie; sighing for sadnes, and yet not sad at all. Whilest he bathed himself in that Haven of Blis, passing the rest of that night in such unspeakable pleasure, as cannot be deciphered. Early the next morning he arose, taking his farewel with a sweet adue, leading Artesia sad for sorrow, and lamenting his absence; but yet with earnest and heartie prayers invocating his happie success, bathing her heart in lukewarm teats; thinking she had been too prodigal of her favours to him, and yet esteeming him worthie of a thousand

times

times greater gift, if she had it in her possession; with repentance rejoicing, though deeming her self metamorphosed, and other then she was wont to be; being glad she had no more companie to converse withall, lest her guilt should make her blush, and so betray her fault. And when Phœbus began to lighten the Chamber with his splendor, she hid her self within the bed, as if the day light had accused her of that she had done in the dark.

Ornatus being come to the Camp, found out Phylastes, and brought him to Artesias lodging, by the way instructing him how to order his business when Lenon should come. Where being entred, Phylastes having saluted Artesia, and a while conversed about their affairs, they changed their habits: Ornatus with many a sorrowful sigh taking his leave of her, while his heart bled warm drops of blood. Ornatus having taken leave of Artesia, went to the Camp; where he ordered his affairs so discreetly, that he was taken by all to be Phylastes. Newes came that the Armenians were landed and had brought their forces within a daies march of Thæons Camp: then the King assembled all the chief Leaders together, to appoint everie man his charge, and consult what to do. Ornatus in Phylastes stead, had under his charge four thousand men whom by his own seeking, he was appointed to convey into a Wood, that stood fitly to offend the Enemie; and the rest appointed to other places, that seemed for most advantage.

Ornatus having his souldiers alone, thought it time to execute what he intended; and therefore called to him such as were Captains and chief under him, uttering these speeches: Fellow souldiers, I would willingly utter my minde, which is troubled in some sort with the remembrance of the injuries Allanus hath causlesly endured, against whom now we addresse our selves to fight; wherein, in my minde, we deal unjustly: for he was never Traitor to his Countrie, nor now cometh to disturb the Land with oppression, but onely to claim his own inheritance and libertie, which our selves do permit: therefore I think it best before we draw our weapons to consider against

whom we draw them, and whom we offend; one that loveth us, his Country, and people, and would not willingly shed a drop of our blood.

Now if I could finde a remedy for all this, which standeth with equity, would you follow my directions? With that they all at once said, they would be ruled by him. Then he said, Thæon that is now our King, destroyed all the late Kings family, and such as were in any degree near unto him in blood; the last of whom is Allinus, whose utter ruine he now seeketh, not by justice, but that neither he nor any of his progeny should hinder his succession: therefore if you will follow my counsel, when the Armies are met, let us not offer to offend the Armenians, but keep our selves from fight, until Lenon affrighted therewith, and fearing the peoples revolt, will peradventure yeeld to perform the articles the Armenians demand: and by this means we shall restore Allinus to his right, save the effusion of blood, and yet not wrong our reputation. The people hearing his speech, generally gave their consent: crying, Phylastes, Phylastes. With that, Ornatus bestowed the gold among them that Lenon had before given him, which prevailed with the multitude exceedingly. Ornatus having effected this according to his desire, went to the Armenian Camp, desiring to speak with Allinus the General, to whom he declared what he intended in his behalf, not discovering himself to be any other then Phylastes, for which Allinus yeelded him many hearty thanks. Whilest Ornatus was absent, a Captain named Ortonus, drawn by desire of reward, and above the rest favouring Lenons party, stole from the Wood, and comming into the Camp to Lenon, discovered what Phylastes intended, and how that he was gone to the Armenian Camp to confer with Allinus. Lenon hearing that, thought it not best to send for him by Warrant, but among the rest to summon him to counsel, and to that effect sent a Herald. Ornatus being returned, had knowledge of the general Assembly, and willingly went, little suspecting what Lenon intended, and being entred the Camp and Lenons Tent, he was before all the Estates arrested by a Herald of high Treason. Ornatus

then

then thought his deſigne was diſcovered, demanding what they could lay to his charge? Whereupon Ornonus before them all declared what he had done, which he could not deny: Upon which accuſation he was ſent to the Court and impriſoned.

Chap. XV.

How *Ornatus* was delivered out of Priſon, and caried *Arteſia* from the Court. How *Ornatus* in a ſingle Duel overcame *Lenon*, and cauſed *Thæons* flight; And how *Arteſia* to eſcape *Thæon*, fled to *Adellenaes* houſe.

The news of Ornatus impriſonment, was ſoon blazed through the whole Camp, Court, and Country, and at laſt came to Arteſiaes hearing, who with exceeding lamentations bewailed his misfortune: but Phylaſtes coming unto her, comforted her all that he could: promiſing to ſet Ornatus at liberty, if (quoth he) at Lenons next comming you will requeſt his Signet, to kéep as his Warrant for your ſafety.

The next day the Armies were to meet, and therefore Lenon that night viſited Arteſia: and finding her very ſad, demanded the cauſe thereof: My Lord (quoth ſhe) how can I be otherwiſe then ſad, when I am ready every hour to fall into more miſery, not knowing whether your life may be endangered by theſe Warres, and I thereby ſubject to more misfortune? Therefore in ſigne you love me, grant me your ſignet, to be my Warrant and priviledge, againſt any injury that may be offered me: With that ſhe kiſt him, which ſhe had never before done: not drawn by any good will, but with deſire to help Ornatus. Lenons heart was ſo overcome, that preſently he gave her the ſame, ſaying ſome time with her to intreat her conſent to his love. He was no ſooner gone, but Phylaſtes taking the ring of Arteſia, went unto the place where Ornatus was, and coming to the Goaler, told him that he muſt deliver Phylaſtes to his cuſtody, ſhewing him the Princes Signet as his warrant.

The Goaler ſeeing the ſame, and knowing that the Pilgrim was of great credit and truſt with Lenon, made no doubt, but preſently delivered Ornatus to him, both departing together to Arteſia, who ſeeing her beloved ſo fortunately delivered, ſhed tears of joy for his eſcape.

After ſalutations in the kindeſt ſort paſt, Ornatus declared what he intended, and how he was betrayed by Ortonus. Phylaſtes then counſelled Ornatus, that night to convey Arteſia from thence, unto ſome place of better ſecuritie: who ſometimes thought to carrie her to Adellenaes houſe, but he feared Lenon would miſdoubt that place. At laſt he concluded to convey her to her Fathers Caſtle, which was ſtill kept for her uſe, by certain of her fathers ſervants: Both Arteſia and Phylaſtes liked this well, and therefore leaving the Court they departed thitherwards. Arteſia not wonted to travel, could ſcarcely endure to hold out; but by their help, they arrived there at midnight, and knocking awaked the Porter, who looking over the Battlements, demanded who was below at that unſeaſonable time of the night? My friend (quoth Ornatus) it is Arteſia, that cometh in time of her moſt need, for harbour in this place. The Porter viewing her well by the bright light of Cynthia, knew her, and calling up the reſt of his fellows, came running down and opened the gate, where they all received her with great joy.

Ornatus was glad of this happie eſcape, but yet exceeding ſad that he could not aſſiſt his father againſt Lenon, but that he muſt perforce be abſent from his reſcue; which filled his heart with ſuch care, that all that night he could take no reſt: and though he enjoyed Arteſiaes companie without controul, he could give no reſt nor quiet to his diſtempered thoughts: that Phylaſtes demanded the cauſe of his ſadneſs. My aſſured friend (quoth he) the remembrance of my Fathers eſtate, and fear of his miſhap, maketh me thus ſad, and I am much troubled that I cannot be preſent to aid him againſt Lenon, who by treacherie will ſeek his ruine. O were I but preſent to defend him, my heart would be at quiet. Arteſia hearing his ſpeeches, ſaid: Good Ornatus, do not again hazard your ſelf as you lately did; for had

had not fortune and Phylaſtes wiſdome afflicted us, both your life and with it mine, had been caſt away.

My dear Arteſia (quoth he) that misfortune hath taught me wiſdome, and by remembring it, I will learn to eſchew ſuch miſchiefs, and know whom I truſt: therefore I beſeech you, grant I may once again go, to do my dutie in aiding my Father, which I will now do without danger; for that I will make none privie to that I intend, nor attempt more then I am able to perform. Arteſia ſeeing how fully he was bent to go, preferred his will b. fore her own deſire; knowing it her dutie not to contradict, but to counſel him, and therfore ſaid: My dear Ornatus, my dutie bindeth me to conſent, but my love willeth me to denie: fear of miſhap maketh me unwilling, but will to fulfill your deſire, maketh me give an unwilling conſent: onely let me requeſt this that you will take Phylaſtes in your companie, and leave me to the cuſtodie of my ſervants, whoſe fidelitie I am aſſured of; for having him with you, his aid and counſel may much avail to preſerve your life: which if you loſe (as heavens forbid) with the ſame ſhall mine expire: for it is impoſſible Arteſia ſhould breath, Ornatus being breathleſs. Ornatus with a few tears (which griefe forc'd from his manly heart) participated her laments, requeſted the ſervants to be careful of her welfare, without delay furniſhing himſelf and Phylaſtes with good horſes and armour (of which there was good ſtore in the Caſtle) they departed. Then might one have beheld ſorrow (at parting) in his right form, heart-breaking ſighs breathing ſad farewels, and taking leave with ſorrowful tears; when their lips were parted, their hands were faſtened; their hands diſjoin'd, their voices often uttered that wofull word, farewel: and when they were paſt hearing, their eyes unwillingly leaving each others ſight, he being without, looking back; and ſhe within, looking after, ſo long as ſhe could perceive the glimmering light of the bright Armor; and he being paſt ſight of her, with watrie eyes beholding the place of her abode. Thus parted they, as if they had parted never to meet.

Drawing nigh the Armies they beheld them met, and in hot skirmiſh,

skirmish; they stood still a good space, to see to whether partie it was likely the victorie would incline: in the end, they beheld the Armenians begin to retreat, and Lenon with Thæon his father, in the midst of the throng making exceeding slaughter, and proud of their deemed conquest. Which set Ornatus heart on fire, that he rushed amongst the thickest of his Countrimen, not once offering a blow, nor shedding one drop of the blood he loved, but onely making way to come to Lenon; which made them not offer to stay his passage, but admiring what he was, let him go free; after whom Phylastes hasted. The souldiers seeing these two new come Knights offend none, admired what they should be, not one of them offering a blow, because they offered none. By this time Ornatus was come to the place where Lenon was, who (even then and not before) had met Allinus: between whom many blowes and some wounds were given and received, but Allinus had the worst by reason of his age. Ornatus knowing his Father by his armor, came betwixt them with his sword drawn, saying: Lenon stay thy hand, let ags go free, and let thy youth cope with me, that am come to challenge thee before both the Armies: and therefore as thou art the Kings Son, a Knight, and honourest Arms, give order by thy Herald to stay the furie of the Battle, till thou and I have singly tried our valours: otherwise, this Knight and I have vowed to hunt thee from place to place, and never desist till we have wrought thy destruction.

Lenon Hearing this Champions proud challenge, said: If thou art a Knight and a Gentleman as I am, and canst shew wherein I have wronged thee, I will answer thee: otherwise know that I scorn thee, although I know my self of sufficient strength to abate thy haughty presumption, were it never so great. With that two Heralds were sent from either General to part the souldiers; which done, Ornatus before the open assembly, said: Lenon, first I say, I am a Gentleman as absolute and as good as thy self, Prince I am none, neither art thou by right but that by tyranny and usurpation thou holdest the same: I come as Artesiaes Champion, to challenge thee of dis-

loyaltie,

loyalty, as the outrages thou haſt committed by detaining her libertie do manifeſt: I challenge thee for doing injuſtice againſt Allinus, whoſe right thou malitiouſly detaineſt; I challenge thee as partaker of Arbaſtus death, for that thou unjuſtly permitteſt his murtherer Florctus to live: I challenge thee for the greivous taxes laid upon the free ſubjects of this land: And laſtly, for detaining Ornatus living who never was impeached of treaſon. And therefore if thou dareſt anſwer my challenge, I am here ready; otherwiſe I declare thee to be a coward, and unworthy to bear armes. Lenon made this reply: Being accuſed by a ſtranger without cauſe, I regard it not; and being judge my ſelf, will not by thee be adjudged: But for thy proud challeng I will anſwer; as little regarding what thou canſt do, as thou boaſtingly doeſt brag of thy valour. Therefore before I depart, I will without delay abate thy pride, though thy accuſations are manifeſtly falſe: For I both love and eſteem Arteſia as dearly as I do my ſelf: My title to the Crown is juſt: for Allinus, he is both a traitor at home and abroad; firſt, in cauſing his complices to ſeek my fathers life; and laſtly for bringing theſe Armenian bands to deſtroy the Country: For Floretus pardon, it is mercy, not injuſtice. As for imprſoning Ornatus, I am altogether ignorant of his reſidence; but if he take the juſtice executed upon his traiterous Father as injurious to him, I cannot help that, but revenge it thou ſince thou art his Champion.

Ornatus had much ado to ſtay to hear out his ſpeech, which galled him to the very heart, that without ſpeaking another word, he encountred Lenon, and Lenon with courage anſwered his reſolution, beginning a moſt fierce and terrible fight, and with undanted courage continued the ſame till both had received many wounds, and their Steeds began to be furious and mad with the ſmart of ſome ſtrokes that miſt their right aim. Ornatus calling to remembrance, firſt the injuries he had received, and that Lenon and none elſe could diſpoſſeſs him of Arteſias love, & many other wrongs he had done him and his parents, thought now to revenge them all, and diſpoſſeſs Thæon of the

Crown, by Lenons death; revived his spirits with such courage, that he began with renewed strength to assail Lenon, who even then began to faint, and would have yeelded, but that shame withheld him. Which when Ornatus perceived he thought at once to end the strife, that with one forcible blow he gave him so deep a Wound on the right arm, where the armor was broken away, that he let fall his sword, and fell senceless on his horse neck. Thæon perceiving his son in that danger, with his Guard came rushing in and rescued him from Ornatus sword, that otherwise had parted his head from his body. With this both the Armies joyned Battle again; the Armenians with fresh courage rushing upon their enemies whose hearts began to fail, seeing Lenon so near death, which made such a confusion among them, that they were ready to flye or yeeld to Allinus, rather then fight it out; that on a sudden, the Armenians had slain an infinite number of them, and all the earth was died to a purple colour with their blood. Ornatus heart was vexed to see so much of his Countrimens blond shed, that he intreated Phylastes to perswade the souldiers to give over, and himself rode betwixt the two Armies with a Herald, desiring them to stay their fury for a little space. Long it was before they gave over, but at last by the Drums and Trumpets sound, having called back the Armenians, Ornatus placing himself in the midst of his Countrimen that a multitude might hear him said:

Renowned people of Phrygia, hear my speech, that am tormented to see so much of our blond shed, the effusion whereof I seek by all meanes to stop, having as you see (for the love I bare you) not lifted my hand against any of you save onely Lenon: the causes that urged me to challenge him, is the manifest wrong he and his father hath done to your selves, this Country, and all the Nobility; for the true testimony whereof, let every one inwardly examine his own conscience, and they will not deny my words, but finde themselves exceedingly greived with his oppression. Do you not see what destruction he hath brought upon this Land? Are not almost all the Nobility slain and destroyed? Are not your Liberties, goods, and friends

taken

taken from you? Is not the whole Land in an uproar and every one driven from his quiet at home, to venture his life in the field? and all this for satisfaction of his will and self-command, not grounded upon law or justice? Examine your consciences, is he your lawful King? Did not he murther your anointed Soveraign to make you his Vassals? Again, doth Allinus seek to do his Country wrong? Doth he come to oppress you? Doth he come to take away your Liberties, or lay heavie Tares upon you? No, he onely commeth to demand his inheritance, by injustice taken from him, and to punish the murtherers of his religious predecessor: he commeth constrained by grief not to live as a banished man, being himself, and kindred and friends, driven to live in miserie and slaverie, for to satisfie the Usurpers ambition. Then I beseech you dear Countrimen, consider well what you do: whom you do offend, a Traitor: whom you resist a dear friend; that loveth and tendreth your lives as dear as his own: whose condition strangers pity, to whom he is unknown; but his own Countrimens hearts are hardened against him, reparing cruelty for his love, and oppose him endeavouring to regain his right.

I could alledge so many reasons to dissuade you from adhering to this Tyrant, as would ask a tedious recital: but I know you have understanding to conceive the right, your hearts merciful to pity him, and your mindes apt to do justice: then dissert him, discharge your mindes of care, and disburthen your selves of his oppression: I stand here as an Advocate to plead for Allinus right, that hath suffered too much wrong: I stand here as Artesias Champion, that is imprisoned by Lenon, abused by Lenon, and with-held from her liberty by Lenon: I stand here to intreat you save your own lives, to preserve your Liberties, to execute justice, and to do Allinus right. Then I beseech you lay aside your arms taken up in defence of wrong, and turn your hearts to pitie innocency; whereby you shall save many of your lives, shew your selves men that are ruled by wisedome not by rage, and purchase Libertie, Freedom, and Peace, for ever.

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Crown, by Lenons death; revived his spirits with such courage, that he began with renewed strength to assail Lenon, who even then began to faint, and would have yeelded, but that shame with-held him. Which when Ornatus perceived he thought at once to end the strife, that with one forcible blow he gave him so deep a Wound on the right arm, where the armor was broken away, that he let fall his sword, and fell senceless on his horse neck. Thæon perceiving his son in that danger, with his Guard came rushing in and rescued him from Ornatus sword, that otherwise had parted his head from his body. With this both the Armies joyned Battle again; the Armenians with fresh courage rushing upon their enemies whose hearts began to fail, seeing Lenon so near death, which made such a confusion among them, that they were ready to flye or yeeld to Allinus, rather then fight it out; that on a sudden, the Armenians had slain an infinite number of them, and all the earth was died to a purple colour with their blood. Ornatus heart was vexed to see so much of his Countri-mens blood shed, that he intreated Phylastes to perswade the souldiers to give over, and himself rode betwixt the two Armies with a Herald, desiring them to stay their fury for a little space. Long it was before they gave over, but at last by the Drums and Trumpets sound, having called back the Armenians, Ornatus placing himself in the midst of his Countri-men that a multitude might hear him said:

Renowned people of Phrygia, hear my speech, that am tormented to see so much of our blood shed, the effusion whereof I seek by all meanes to stop, having as you see (for the love I bare you) not lifted my hand against any of you save onely Lenon: the causes that urged me to challenge him, is the manifest wrong he and his father hath done to your selves, this Country, and all the Nobility; for the true testimony whereof, let every one inwardly examine his own conscience, and they will not deny my words, but finde themselves exceedingly grieved with his oppression. Do you not see what destruction he hath brought upon this Land? Are not almost all the Nobility slain and destroyed? Are not your Liberties, goods, and friends

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taken from you? Is not the whole Land in an uproze and eve-ry one driven from his quiet at home, to venture his life in the field: and all this foz satisfaction of his will and self-command, not grounded upon law oz justice? Examine your consciences, is he your lawful King? Did not he murther your anointed Soveraign to make you his Vassals? Again, doth Allinus seek to do his Country wzong? Doth he come to oppzess you? Doth he come to take away your Liberties, oz lay heavie Tares upon you? No, he onely commeth to demand his inheritance by in-justice taken from him, and to punish the murtherers of his religious predecessoz: he commeth constrained by grief not to live as a banished man, being himself, and kindzed and friends, dziven to live in miserie and slaverie, foz to satisfie the Usur-pers ambition. Then I beseech you dear Countrimen, consi-der well what you do: whom you do offend, a Traitoz: whom you resist a dear friend; that loveth and tendzeth your lives as dear as his own: whose condition strangers pity, to whom he is unknown; but his own Countrimens hearts are harden-ed against him, reparing crueltie foz his love, and oppose him endeavouring to regain his right.

I could alledge so many reasons to disswade you from adhe-ring to this Tyrant, as would ask a tedious recital: but I know you have understanding to conceive the right, your hearts merciful to pity him, and your mindes apt to do justice: then dissert him, discharge your mindes of care, and disburthen your selves of his oppression: I stand here as an Advocate to plead foz Allinus right, that hath suffered too much wzong: I stand here as Artesias Champion, that is imprisoned by Lenon, abu-sed by Lenon, and with-held from her liberty by Lenon: I stand here to intreat you save your own lives, to preserve your Li-berties, to execute justice, and to do Allinus right. Then I be-seech you lay asside your arms taken up in defence of wzong, and turn your hearts to pitie innocency; whereby you shall save many of your lives, shew your selves men that are ruled by wisedome not by rage, and purchase Libertie, Freedom, and Peace, foz ever.

Then you that bear the true hearts of Phrygians follow me, and forsake that Usurper, and stay such ruine and destruction as is like to ensue by your refusal, and let the lawful Heir enjoy the Crown; who will love and cherish you, and seek his Countries peace. The peoples hearts were so altered with his speeches, that many came running to him, crying Allinus, Allinus, and the rest that were not yet resolved were doubtful what to do. Then Duke Ternus commanded his forces to follow him, who making use of this opportunity, withdrew his forces from the Camp resolving no longer to follow Thæon, whom he looked upon as an Usurper, but for the present to stand a Neuter: and rather wishing that Allinus might enjoy his right, than that the Usurper should longer tyrannize over them; he being, like many others, forced to raise his tenants for fear of Thæons displeasure, who cared not how his will was executed. Ternus therefore politikely drew his forces apart, that if Thæon prevailed, yet he could not impeach him; and if Allinus had the best, yet he could not alledge that Ternus withstood him, thinking it the greatest point of wisdom, to keep himself upright.

Thæon had no sooner conveyed his son to his Tent, and with much ado recovered him to his senies, but there came a Messenger posting from the Court, with news that Phylastes was two days since escaped out of prison: and presently after him, another brought news that Artesia was fled with the Pilgrim, but no man could tell whither. Lenon hearing the news, became almost mad, and raged so extreamly at the news, that his wounds fell a bleeding afresh. And to fill up his heart with sorrow and vexation, another Messenger from the Camp came running in, crying: Flye Thæon flye, we are betrayed to the Enemy, the Leaders, Captains, and souldiers, are revolted; and the Enemy is near at hand to surprize thee; flye and save thy life, for all thy subjects have left thee, and refuse thy Government. Thæon was so amazed and terrified with fear, that without regard of Lenons life, he fled to save himself; every one (saving those that fled with Thæon) running to their revolted fellows to save themselves.

This

This news was brought to Allinus: who hearing the same, and being past fear of Thæons rage, sent a Herald to Ternus, to know whether he were his friend, or still continued those bands to resist him as his foe? who returned this answer: That he was never his enemy, but always wisht his good: Afterwards dismissing his souldiers, and sending every one well rewarded to his own house, he himself came back to his Tent; where he met Allinus, whom he kindely saluted. Thither were assembled the chief States of the Land, to whom Allinus said: My Lords, since Thæon and Lenon are fled, and none left but your Honours in place of Justice, with right and equality to minister the same to such as have received wrong; I, as one that have suffered the greatest loss, commit my cause to your judicious consideration: You know what loss I have endured by his malice, for endeavouring to set Arteſia at liberty, that was by Lenon imprisoned and ignobly used: requesting nothing of you, but that which by right is mine, and belongeth to me by inheritance. The Nobles generally consented that he should enjoy his former possessions, and that his loss should be repayed out of the Kings Exchequer.

Ornatus standing by, said: Most noble Peers, you stand here debating matters, whilest the cause of your woe is living, and far enough from yeelding to what you grant; who now peradventure is muttering new forces to make frustrate what you intend, and to work revenge: Which to prevent, give me your consents to persue him; and he being once taken, then may you without controul either establish him, or chuse a new, that should by right be your King.

To this all the Nobles gave consent: and Ornatus with three thousand horsemen followed Thæon, who first took the Green Fortress with five hundred men, who won by great rewards, continued firm: but hearing of the Armenians approach, (under the conduct of the Stranger that slew Lenon) in the night he fled with a hundred of his nearest friends and kindred, to Arbastus Castle, where he thought to live secure and unknown, for that he thought his Enemies would least of all suspect that

place. He arrived there in the dead of night, and knocking, was denied entrance; which made him desperately attempt it by force, and obtained entrance with the rest of his company, making fast the gates again after them.

Artesias servants knowing what he was, some ran one way, some another, to hide themselves from him: one amongst the rest, came running into Artesias Chamber, declaring to her what had befalne, and how that the King had taken the Castle. Artesia having not yet heard of Lenons death, nor what success Ornatus had in the Camp, wringing her hands made this lamentation: Twice hath my dear Ornatus left me in this danger, and hazarded his own life, hoping to attain good success; but cruel fortune hath still croſt his laudable attempts, and left both him and my poor self in extream misery. Now am I assured he is taken prisoner again, and my self am like not long to go free; for I am sure the King hath heard of my being here, which maketh him come thus late: Well, might I but be a prisoner in the same place my Ornatus lies enthralled, that I might enjoy his sight, then should I think my self happy in misery: but I much fear they will privily murther him, and never let me know thereof, so shall I long to see him, but in the end be frustrated. Never was poor Maiden brought to such misery: nor I think, true love ever croſt with such bitter adversities, which both he for me, and I for him, have been continually subject unto, ever since our first acquaintance. As she was still continuing her laments, the same servant (whose name was Thristus) came running in again, saying: Dear Mistress, I have found a means for your escape from hence unespied, if you will attempt it without any danger at all. Never tell me what it is (quoth she) but be thou my guide, and I will follow thee: for I will attempt any thing to escape from him. Then (quoth he) fear nothing, but follow me. Then took he her by the hand, leading her out of that room into a dark entry, where (by reason it was night) there appeared not the least glimpse of light; and through that into many back rooms and unfrequented places of the Castle, untill he came to a postern gate, which he opened,

and

and after he was out, ſhut the ſame faſt again, ſaying: Now Miſtreſs, you are out of the Caſtle, and paſt fear of the King, who little knoweth you can paſs out this way, therefore I pray tell me whither I ſhall conduct you? I thank thee good Thriſtus (qd. ſhe) for this thy good aſſiſtance, for which I will one day be thankfull unto thée: and now I pray thée direct me to Adellenaes houſe, who is my faithful friend, and will rather die then diſcover me. This ſaid, they began their journey, which was but three miles, and therefore they ſoon overcame the ſame, even by the mornings light arriving at the wiſhed place. Adellena hearing ſome knock at the gate, commanded her Maid to riſe, to ſee who it was, the Damzel comming down, before ſhe would open the gate, asked who was there? Arteſia knowing her voice, ſaid: It is Arteſia good Anna let me in. With that the Damzel opened the gate, and conducted her to her Miſtreſſes chamber; who eſpying her, was ſo ſurpriſed with joy, that ſhe imbraced her with tears, ſaying: Welcome my dear Arteſia, I was afraid I ſhould never habe ſeen you again, you have been ſo long time abſent. Indéed (quoth ſhe) I habe been long abſent from thee, but yet not far from thee; but I habe news of importance to tell thee which I will forbear to ſpeak of, until I habe refreſhed my ſelf, for care and travel hath made me exceeding weary. Then Adellena brought her into a ſwéet and pleaſant Chamber, where ſhe laid her down to reſt.

Chap. XVI.

How *Ornatus* ſurprized *Thæon* in *Arbaſtus* Caſtle, who was ſlain by one of his own ſervants.

Ornatus hearing the King had taken the Green Fortreſs, beſet the ſame round with horſemen; who took certain of the Kings followers and brought them before him, who certified, that the King with ſome hundred in his company, was fled to Arbaſtus Caſtle: which when he heard, without delay he rode thither, fearing leſt Thæon getting in,

and

and finding Artesia, should offer her some injury. He was no sooner come, but he found it so, for he was denied entrance; nor could he see one of Artesiaes servants, whom he left as Keepers of the same: which so much disquieted his heart, that he could not tell what to do, thinking it best to intreat Thæon kindely, lest he should seek revenge against Artesia, though she were innocent, and no way to be blamed for any thing: and such a multitude of contrarious fears arose in his fancies, that he seemed therewith metamorphosed. Which Phylastes soon perceived, and comming to him, said: How now Ornatus! what hath fear taken away thy courage? O my friend Phylastes (quoth he) Thæon is within, and possest of Artesia; whose minde is so far from the least thought of vertue, that no doubt he will seek revenge on her. Fear not that (quoth Phylastes) but give him a summons, and if he will stand to the trial of his Peers, promise him safe conduct thither. Ornatus allowed his counsel and commanded a trumpet to sound a parley, and a Herald appearing on the wals, demanded what he would have? To whom Ornatus said, tell Thæon your King, that we come to him from the Peers of Phrygia; the Messenger certifying Thæon, he came to the Battlements, and demanded what they would have?

Quoth Ornatus, I would have you yeeld, lest by resistance you procure a greater mischief to your self then is by us intended. Suppose I should yeeld (qd. he) how would you use me? Like a King (quoth Ornatus) honourably. I have found (qd. he) so small cause to trust you, that it were fondnes to put my life within compass of your mercy, therefore I will keep my self where I am, not doubting (ere many days) to have so many friends, as shall not onely chase ye from before these Wals, but forth of the Country: this he spake, being confident that his friends would levie new supplies, who never intended any such matter.

Ornatus was much troubled in minde to think what was become of Artesia, marvelling that he spake not of her, nor could hear of any of her servants that might give him knowledge how she fared. But seeing his fair words would not prevail, he said: Thæon since thou refusest the courteous proffer I make thee, know

know that my intent is altered, and since thou wilt not by fair means yeeld, I will enforce thee to submit thy self to my mercy, or abide my rigour, for not all the friends thou hast shall shelter thee from my revenge. for I have sworn thy death, and nothing but that shall satisfie me. Which now I will once again revoke, if you will yeeld without enforcement and deliver me Artesia in safety, who is in that Castle. Artesia (qd. Thæon) had I her in my custody, I would be revenged on her, because thou wishest her safety; but she is far enough from me, therefore thou requirest her in vain at my hands, who would as readily deliver her to thee as thou couldst ask, I so little valew her. But for my self, it shall never be said my minde would stoop to base submission, nor that a King yeelded to his Vassal. Doest thou think that a royal minde can put on so degenerate a habite? No, I tell thee whatsoever thou art, I had rather by inforcement to dye, then by submission live. But be thou advised what thou dost, nor stay long before these Walls; for there are so many whetting their swords, and putting on Armour in my defence, as ere the morning Sun arise, will scare thee from hence. Ornatus heart could not endure these braves, and being withall vexed for fear that Artesia should sustain any wrong, he thought speedily to work revenge. Which by Phylastes counsel he remitted until night, that then unawares they might by some means get entrance into the Castle, and so surprize them.

Ornatus thinking to walk alone by himself, to breath forth in sighs some part of the fear that pressed his heart, and withall determining to view the Castle, how he might with conventency get into the same without destroying it, because it belonged to his beloved he espied the Postern-gate; whereat thrusting, it presently flew open: which way, as yet neither Thæon nor any of his company had found. Ornatus heart was glad he had found so good a means to accomplish his will, and putting the same too again, came to Phylastes and told him thereof. Then both of them presently agreed to enter that way and surprize them; conveying a hundred of the best soul-

diers ſecretly under the Wall unto that Poſtern, and placed the reſt in the open view of the Caſtle, as if none of them had been wanting.

Ornatus and Phylaſtes firſt entred, and after them the reſt, who paſſing along through the waſte rooms at laſt came to the place where they had left Arteſia, but found her not: and ſuch ſucceſs had they in their attempt, that Ornatus comming behinde Thæon, ſmote him on the ſhoulder with his hand, before he had any knowledge of his approach: Thæon therewith ſtarting, and looking back was amazed, but running forward, drew out his ſword, crying: My friends ſave and defend your ſelves; wherewith thoſe that were about him drew their ſwords: To whom Ornatus ſaid: How now Uſurping King, where are thoſe mighty forces ſhould drive me hence? Will you yet yeeld, or ſtand to the tryal by fight? I yeeld (qd. Thæon) but much againſt my will; for had friends dealt faithfully, I had not been left in this miſery: but ſince fortune ſo much favoureth thee, as to make me thy priſoner, uſe me well, for that I am a King, and to none but thy ſelf am captive. Tell me (qd. Ornatus) what is becomne of Arteſia, that not many days ſince I left in this place? I ſaw her not (quoth Thæon) nor know I where ſhe is. onely I found certain ſervants in this place, whom I put to death, leſt they ſhould diſcover my being here. Tyrant (quoth Ornatus) thinkeſt thou their deaths ſhall go unrevenged? couldeſt thou be ſo cruel as to murther thoſe that were innocent? with whom (I fear) thou haſt made away Arteſia. Why what art thou (quoth Thæon) that uſeſt ſuch undecent words to a King? and why makeſt thou ſuch enquiry after Arteſia? Suppoſe I have ſlain her that was the cauſe of all this woe, what canſt thou challenge at my hands for her? It had been good ſhe had never been born, for ſhe onely hath been the original of theſe troubles. Art thou a King (qd. Ornatus) and beareſt ſo unkingly a minde, as to ſlander true vertue? No, thou art a Villain, a Murtherer, a Traitor to this Land, an uſurper of the Crown, and a moſt wicked and cruel homicide: but becauſe thou wouldeſt know what I am; know, that I have more intereſt to the

Crown

Crown then thou hast; my name is Ornatus, and thy enemy to whom by right that Crown belongeth, which thou shalt no longer enjoy; therefore (said he) such as are my friends lay hold on this Traitor. He had no sooner spake those words, but Thæons own servants were the first that apprehended him, being weary of his government; and one amongst the rest, thinking that he had commanded them to slay him; and withall hoping for reward for that forward exploit, having his sword ready drawn, suddenly (whilest Ornatus did but turn about to confer with Phylastes) thrust the same through Thæons body, who giving a piteous groan, gave up the Ghost. Ornatus turning him demanded who had done that deed? with that the murtherer drew back, fearing to come before him, till he was compeld. To whom Ornatus said: What art thou that hast done this deed? Art thou not one of his servants? Hast thou not bin maintained by him? Did he not trust thee with his life? Was he not thy King? Then how durst thou presume to lift thy hand against thy soveraign, be ungrateful to him that gave thee gifts, and prove false to him that trusted thee, and slay thine anointed King? My Lord (quoth he) I did mistake your words, and hope to preserve be my own life made me do that deed; which I thought would have pleased you. I am not (quoth he) sorry he is dead, but because thou slewest him, whom thou in all duty oughtest to have defended; for which thou shalt dye a miserable death. Then Ornatus commanded that he should be torn in pices with horses; which before he departed from the Castle he saw executed.

Chap. XVII.

How *Ornatus* was choſen King. How he departed unknown in ſearch of *Arteſia*. How *Lenon* ſought again to betray him, but was diſappointed: How he was baniſhed: *Floretus* pardoned: And *Ornatus* and *Arteſia* royally married.

THe King dead, Ornatus with Phylaſtes returned to the Court where all the Pæers were aſſembled, who before his comming had by a voluntary Meſſenger underſtood the manner of Thæons death, the care whereof was already paſt, becauſe few or none loved him: But now their care was, whom to chuſe for their King; yet firſt they welcommed Ornatus, none of them all knowing him, nor once ſuſpecting what he was: who now ſeeing there was no further occaſion to conceal himſelf, humbling himſelf before Allinus, he ſaid: My renowned Lord, the cauſe I have ſo long concealed my ſelf, hath been for fear of the Kings cruelty, and Lenons envy, who both would have indangered me; but now being void of that miſdoubt, your poor ſon Ornatus ſubmitteth himſelf, humbly craving pardon for my neglect of duty. With that he unarmed his head, and his father knowing him, in moſt loving wiſe embraced him, ſhedding tears for joy of his ſafety, whom he thought had been long ſince dead. Duke Ternus and the reſt rejoyced to ſee him, and with embracings expreſt their joy, entring into admiration of his honored parts and noble chivalry. Phylaſtes being known, was much commended, whom they thought had been murthered in priſon by Lenon, becauſe he could not be found. Allinus beholding Ornatus, and with what valour he had behaved himſelf, rejoyced exceedingly: The Commons clapt their hands for joy; and the Pæers amongſt themſelves began to relate, how vertuouſly, valiantly, and prudently, he had behaved himſelf in all that he had undertaken. After many welcoms paſt, Ternus craving audience, ſtood up uttering theſe ſpeeches:

My

My Lords, we need not now defer giving Allinus his right, becauſe there is none to contradict what we eſtabliſh. Beſides, we being all now aſſembled together, and our late uſurping King dead, their can be no fitter time to chuſe a new King; and ſuch a one, as by right of bloud and our general conſents may rule us. Thæon you all know was no way intereſted to the Crown, but by uſurpation, and hath rooted out all that he knew to have any title or intereſt in our late Kings bloud; of which houſe Allinus iſſue is the laſt, by marriage of the Lady Aura, Neice unto our late King: therefore the right being in him, if there be any man in this Aſſembly that can contradict what I have ſaid, let him ſpeak: and then he ſate down again. Upon his ſpeeches the Nobles conſulted, the people conferred, and at laſt the common ſouldiers cried out, let Ornatus be our King, Ornatus is our King. The Nobles likewiſe gave conſent to that the multitude liked, and Ornatus was choſen King, whom they would have crowned, but at his requeſt, they deferred the day of his Coronation for a moneth, in the mean time eſteeming him as their King; and that day ſetled him in poſſeſſion with great ſtate.

All buſineſs for that day being ended, the Armenians richly rewarded and feaſted, were ready to return: Allinus in quiet, but for want of his Lady, and all things in good order: Ornatus being alone by himſelf, endured much diſquiet for Arteſia, mardelling what was become of her, ſometimes thinking ſhe was ſlain by Thæon, and then ſuppoſing ſhe was eſcaped out at the Poſtern-gate which he found open: that in theſe contrarieties of doubts, he continued; ſometimes deſpairing, and then again feeding himſelf with hope.

After Arteſia had reſted her ſelf, and regained ſome part of her ſleep ſhe had loſt that night, though but with broken ſlumbers, ſhe began to declare to Adellena what miſeries ſhe had indured, and troubles ſhe had paſt, ſince ſhe was by Lenon carried from her houſe: how ſhe met with Ornatus again, and every thing that had happened; with the cauſe of her flight at that inſtant. But Adellena ſhe ſaid, I fear me I ſhall never ſee him

again: for had he not been taken, and his father overthrown, Theon could not have had so much leisure as to come and surprize me there: but the heavens granted me a fortunate escape. And if I could be so happy, as to hear that Ornatus were in safety, though he had not that success he aimed at, my heart would be at rest, which is now grievously tormented.

His adventurous valiant heart could not be withdrawn by any perswasion to leave to ayd his father; but notwithstanding infinite perils hung over his head, yet to shew the duty of a loving son, and the minde of a vertuous Gentleman, he would not desist to hazard his person, which now I fear me is fain into the hands of his enemies. Yet yet I hope Phylastes will by his good and friendly counsel, be a means to keep him from danger. Many other speeches Artesia used and Adellena as many on the contrary part, to perswade her that Ornatus was in safety: the truth whereof she told her she should soon know, for (qd. she) I have sent one of my servants to learn the truth of all that is happened, who I know will shortly return. Which fell out even as she had told, for the servant returned, bringing news of Lemons death, acted by a strange Knight, and how Theon being fled, was surprized by the strange Knight in Arbastus Castle, and slain by one of his own servants; which Knight was now known to be Ornatus, who was elected King by the Peers but he had deferred the day of his Coronation, by reason of some special grief that troubled him. Artesias heart was revived with this news, knowing the grief Ornatus endured was for her absence, that presently she resolved to send him word of her safety; and wrote a letter, the contents whereof were these:

My Dear Ornatus,

NO news could have come more welcome to me then your safety, and nothing more unwelcome then to hear of your heavinesse: which I would entreat you to cease, for that I am in safety in *Adellenaes* house, being by one of my servants (the same night the King took my Castle through a postern Gate) in safety brought hither: where I hope ere long to see you, which will replenish my soul

soul with exceeding comfort, for on your safety my life and felicity dependeth.

Yours for ever, ARTESIA.

Having wrote this Letter, she gave it to Thrisus, willing him to deliver the same to Ornatus with all speed.

The Destinies do allot many to exceeding misfortunes and some men are of that dishonourable and unmanly disposition, that they account all means to attain their desires lawful; not regarding the danger and shame which follows. Of which nature was Lenon: who being conveyed from the Camp by his friends, soon recovered; and disguised himself that he might not be known, having no other means left to preserve his life: It being too late now to prevent those mischiefs, therefore he concealed himself, and followed Ornatus unknown, with intent if he could opportunely meet him to murther him. He saw his father murthered by one of his own servants, still intermingling himself amongst the private souldiers, that he was taken to be one of them. Now Ornatus being returned to the Court, Lenon was then compelled (for fear of suspition) to leave following him, lurking sometimes in one place, otherwhiles in another; listening after Artesia, whose escape from the Castle he was assured of. And even as Thrisus came out of Adellenaes house Lenon espied him, who knowing him to be one of Artesiaes servants, he suspected his Mistress was there; to whom he came, saying: My friend well met, I take you to be one of Artesiaes servants (unless I be deceived) which if you will resolve me of, I will do a message to you, that I am willed to deliver to her from her dear friend Ornatus. Indeed (quoth Thrisus) I serve Artesia, and am now going to Ornatus with a Letter from Artesia, who is in safety in Adellenaes house. Lenon hearing his speech, being before determined what to do, drew out his dagger and suddenly stabbed him, casting his body into a pit, but first taking the Letter from him, he brake up the seal and read the contents: Which when he had done, he began to studie which way to revenge himself on Ornatus, and afterwards to

get

get Artesia into his possession; and because he thought delay might hinder his intent, he first wrote a Letter in Artesiaes name; the Contents were these.

My dearest Friend Ornatus,

THe newes of your happy Victory, and conquest of your Enemies, is come to my knowledge, then which nothing could have been more welcome unto me. Likewise I hear that much heavinesse possesseth you for my absence, that am in safety; and desire you to meet me to morrow night, and you shall finde me with *Adellena* at the Lodge in the Park near unto my Castle: In the mean time, I remit all further report of my escape and manifestation of my love, until the happy time I may meet you.

Yours in all Love, ARTESIA.

When he had written this Letter, and imitated Artesiaes own hand so near that it could hardly be discerned, he went to the Court, and behaved the matter so cunningly, that he was no way suspected, but was admitted to Phylastes presence, to whom he delivered the Letter; for Ornatus himself being exceedingly troubled in minde had left the Court with some three in his company, to go in search of Artesia, and left Phylastes in his Chamber, to answer such as should come with any requests to him. Phylastes being taken of all (but his attendants) for Ornatus, received the Letter, and rewarded the Messenger, promising to meet Artesia there at the time appointed. Lenon being departed, went to a Kinsman of his named Lucertus, and declared what means he had invented to be revenged of Ornatus; who promised to hazard his life in pursuit thereof, and appointed to meet Ornatus with a sufficient company of men, and surprize him at the Lodge, and there put in execution their premeditated revenge. Lenon being assured of his aid, next determined to take Artesia from Adellenaes house, and to bring her to Lucertus Castle, where he staied, till he saw him with his party depart thither. Phylastes presently upon the receipt of that

that Letter, sent out a Messenger to seek Ornatus, and to certifie him, that Artesia with Adellena would meet him at the Lodge that Evening, and that he should finde Phylastes there: who (being by Artesiaes Messenger taken for himself) had appointed to be there, lest Ornatus should not conveniently be found. The Messenger with great haste departed, and enquiring for four Pilgrims (for in that habit Ornatus and such as were with him went) by that time the day drew near to an end, the Messenger found Ornatus, to whom he declared what Phylastes had given him in charge (onely mistaking the place) for whereas he should (by his direction) have said at the Lodge (mistaking the words) he said at Adellenaes house: Ornatus hearing that heavenly tydings leapt for joy, presently hasting towards Adellenaes house, which was not far off. Lenon to further his attempt (which he thought he could not by violence execute, for he supposed if he should carry her away perforce in the day time, he should be prevented) devised an answer of the Letter which he had taken from Thristus, which he determined to deliver to Artesia, as from Ornatus: the contents whereof were these.

My most dear and beloved Artesia,

I Have received the Letter you sent me by your Servant, whom I have imployed about a matter of great importance, that none so fitly could execute as himself; which news was most welcome, to the comfort of my heart, that was almost overcome with despair of your safety, whereon my chiefest felicity dependeth. Therefore omitting further recital of my joy for your safety (which this paper cannot express) be confident I will meet you soon where this my servant will bring you; whose fidelity I assure you is such, as that he will do nothing but what I have given him in charge: Until which time of meeting, I cease all further circumstance of speech.

Yours, ORNATUS.

With this Letter Lenon went to Adellenaes house, and knocking at the gate was brought to her, to whom he delivered the

ſame: who reading the contents, and being before not well acquainted with Ornatus hand, nothing at all ſuſpected the contrary; but both beleeved that it came from him, and determined to go with the Meſſenger to meet him: Whileſt ſhe was preparing to go with Lenon, Adellenaes Maid came in, telling her, that there was another to ſpeak with her from Ornatus: with that Lenon changed countenance, and Arteſia willed her to bring him in. Ornatus beholding her, thought to have embraced her, and diſcovered himſelf; but that he ſaw a ſtranger there, and eſpied the Letter which ſhe ſtill held in her hand.

Arteſia noting well his countenance, thought it was Ornatus himſelf; but being doubtful thereof, ſhe ſaid: I have received this Letter from Ornatus already, and therefore if you have any further Meſſage from him tell it me; for any news from him ſhall be moſt welcome. Ornatus thought it was ſent by Phylaſtes, but not knowing the Meſſenger marvelled thereat, ſaying: I cannot beleive that it came from him, becauſe within this hour he had not knowledge of your being here. With that Arteſia gave him the Letter willing him to read the ſame. Ornatus ſoon knew it was invented by ſome treachery, and therefore ſaid: I know this comes not from Ornatus for this is not his hand, nor he that brought it any of his ſervants, for himſelf ſent me before, and appointed to be here within this hour. Lenon hearing his ſpeeches, wiſht himſelf a thouſand miles off, fearing to be diſcovered; neither could he tell how to excuſe himſelf; nor by any means avoid the danger. To whom Ornatus ſaid: My friend, when did he deliver thee this Letter? Yeſterday (quoth he.) Thou lieſt (ſaid Ornatus) for he hath not been at the Court theſe three days. Lenon thinking with impudency to outface it, having no other means left that was likely to help him, therefore ſaid: This Letter came from Ornatus, and thou lieſt in ſaying the contrary, being ſome Villain that is ſent to betray this Lady; therefore (quoth he, ſpeaking to Arteſia) beleive him not, for he is come with ſome evil intent: With that Ornatus drew thoſe that were with him laid hands on him, who preſently apprehended him, and pulling off

his

his hat and ſubtle diſguiſe that he woꝛe, knew him to be Lenon, and at the firſt were half afraid to touch him, becauſe they durſt have ſwoꝛn he had bẽn dead.

Ornatus ſeeing Arteſia in an exceeding fright, diſcovered himſelf, and with great joy embꝛaced her, deſiring her to feaꝛ nothing. Arteſia knowing him, ſoon foꝛgot heꝛ feaꝛ, embꝛacing him with exceeding joy. To whom ſhe ſaid: Feaꝛ not my deaꝛ Arteſia, foꝛ be it himſelf oꝛ his ghoſt I caꝛe not, it ſhall go haꝛd if he now eſcape my hands. To whom he ſaid: Moſt diſcouꝛteous and cowaꝛdly Villain, couldeſt thou not be contented to live in quiet (having once eſcaped my fuꝛy) but thou muſt by fuꝛther plots and tꝛeacheꝛies ſeek to betꝛay this Lady, that neveꝛ did injuꝛe thee? How often haſt thou interꝛupted heꝛ quiet, and fꝛom content bꝛought heꝛ into miſeꝛy? And knowing that ſhe could not like thee, yet thou weꝛt ſo impudent as neveꝛ to give oveꝛ thy ſuit; but to attain thy deſiꝛe, fiꝛſt depꝛived heꝛ of liberty, baniſhed me in the diſguiſe of Silvia, and ſoughteſt to betꝛay my Fathers life: And not ſatisfied with all theſe, like a Cowaꝛdly miſcꝛeant ſeeketh to betꝛay heꝛ. And notwithſtanding thou haſt beheld thy Fathers woful downfal, and meꝛitoꝛious puniſhment, thou ſeekeſt to betꝛay this Ladies life, by ſome unknown tꝛeachery not yet ꝛevealed: Foꝛ all which thou ſhalt at my pleaſuꝛe ꝛeceive condigne puniſhment. Lenon, ſeeing himſelf diſcovered gꝛew deſpeꝛate, and ſcoꝛned to be ꝛebuked at his hands (whom he ſtill eſteemed his inferiour) moſt of all gꝛieving it was he, that had ſo long hindeꝛed his love to Arteſia, ſaying: Ornatus I think thou haſt eitheꝛ foꝛgotten thy ſelf, oꝛ elſe what I am; that at thy pleaſuꝛe ꝛebukeſt me with ſuch uncivil and unbeſeeming teꝛmes: Am I not thy betteꝛ, and one that not long ſince might have commanded thee? And is thy minde ſo elevated, that thou wilt not acknowledge it? Thou makeſt bꝛags of thy victoꝛy, when thou mayeſt ratheꝛ with ſhame keep ſilence; and with ſoꝛꝛow ꝛepent that thou haſt ſought the death of thy lawful King, being thy ſelf but a tꝛaytoꝛ.

As he would have ſpoke moꝛe Ornatus interꝛupted him, ſaying:

ing: Hold thy peace, and do not stir my minde to more sharp revenge by thy reply, for I scorn to hear thee speak, therefore give over, lest I punish that tongue of thine for uttering such high words in defence of vice. Since (quoth Lenon) thou wilt not hear me speak in defence of my self, let me be conveyed from thy presence for thy sight is odious to me, as mine to thee. Whilest they continued in Adellenaes house, a Messenger came running in breathless, uttering these speeches: Behold most worthy Ornatus, I bring thee a Message of much woe, and heavy import. Yesterday there was a Messenger came to the Court, that brought a Letter in Artesiaes name to Phylastes, who presently sent out a Messenger to give you knowledge thereof: but not hearing of his return, went himself, and twenty in his company to the place appointed: And entring, he found not Artesia there but a crew of Rebels, amongst whom Lucertus was chief, who all at once set upon him and his followers, (taking him for your self) having so many above the small number that went with Phylastes, that they had soon slain most of them that were with him: and himself not able to withstand such a multitude, had received many grievous wounds, and had been certainly slain, but that the heavens fortunately sent him relief.

It happened that day, that Duke Ternus was going from the Court to his own house, who by great fortune hearing the noise, with his men hasted thitherwards, and having knowledge of what was done, both himself and his men set upon Lucertus, whom they soon vanquished (having first slain many of his complices) and him hath he carried prisoner (with the rest of such as were alive) unto the Court; and with them Phylastes in great danger of death. Ornatus heart was exceedingly vexed to hear of his dear friend Phylastes hurt: but especially to think, that he had not before attached Lucertus (which he was once in minde to have done) which would have prevented all these mischiefs. The night now being come, Ornatus caused Lenon to be bound hand and foot, and put into a strong place of the house, with some to watch him lest he should do himself violence;

lence; whilest he and Artesia spent the Evening in discoursing the manner of all their misfortunes, but especially solacing themselves in their reciprocal love with Adellena: calling to remembrance the whole history of their troubles (onely procured by Lenon) the relation thereof making their present enjoyment more sweet and delicious.

Early the next morning, Ornatus putting himself in his Palmers weeds, covered Artesiaes face with a veil; and carrying Lenon with them bound, departed towards the Court. The next morning, the Peers of the Land being still convened together (amongst whom was Allinus, whose vertuous Lady hearing of his happy success against Thæon, was that morning newly arrived at Court, and by him entertained with exceeding joy;) by that time the Assembly was completed and had called Lucertus before them, Ornatus with his company were likewise come, (though unknown) and standing aside, heard Lucertus confess that Lenon had instigated him to work that revenge against Ornatus; himself being likewise gone to betray Artesia. The whole Assembly marvelled when they heard him say that Lenon perswaded him to it; and Allinus standing up, said: How can this be, when we know Lenon to be dead? Lenon (quoth Lucertus) is not dead. With that, Ornatus stepping in, thrust Lenon before him, and said: Here is the man that hath procured him to do all this mischief. The Nobles beholding him were amazed at his sight; but being assured it was he, by the perfect knowledge they had of him, Tersus said: Lenon I had alwayes thought thou hadst born the minde of a Gentleman, but now I finde the contrary in thee, and that in the most shamefullest degree. What fury led thee to such mischievous attempts as to hire Lucertus to slay Ornatus, which he hath almost performed, and thy self to seek the death or misery of that vertuous Lady, that hath already suffered too much wrong by thy folly?

Allinus had not as yet heard of Ornatus hurt, nor any knew the contrary but that Phylastes was he; for he (according to the minde of a most vertuous and constant friend) still con-

cealed himself. For the Lady Aura had yet seen her son, whom she had but heard of, that Allinus said: Is my son Ornatus almost slain? O traiterous Villain! With that Aura likewise began to make exceeding lamentation: which Ornatus was not able to behold, and therefore pulling off his disguised habite, humbly reverenced himself before them upon his knee. Both his Parents knew him and with exceeding joy embraced him; shedding abundance of tears for his safety. With that Duke Ternus and all the rest came to him, using such behaviour as to him they had made choise of for their King, seating him in his Chair of State. He being seated, said: My noble Lords, I thank you for investing me with this exceeding honour, and since your Lordships have made a free Election of me to be your King, I accept of your bounteous proffer, appointing this day for our Coronation, because I have now no further cause of care, nor reasons to defer the same: And the rather, having a great desire to see justice executed, upon those wicked conspirators against our state and person. The Nobles with most joyfull hearts gave consent, and immediately crowned him, reverencing him upon their knees.

Which done, Ornatus rising from his Imperial Seat, came to Artesia taking her by the hand, and leading her up to the Throne seated her in the Chair, placing the Crown upon her head, saying: My Lords, as you have elected me your King, I pray likewise be contented with that I do, and make this your Queen; then he pulled off the Veil from Artesias face and her clear beauty appeared to the admiration of all: who beholding the same, in humble sort did her reverence; heartily rejoycing at her safety, thinking him more happy in the enjoyment of his vertuous choise, then in obtaining his Kingdome. When this was done, she descended and embraced them, yeilding them many thanks; who all shewed such exceeding kindness, that their hearty expressions very much rejoyced the loving hearts of Ornatus and Artesia: especially the Lady Aura and Duke Ternus his Dutchess, who with many embracings (which they thought they could not sufficiently express) rejoyced to see her

in

in ſafety. By that time Ornatus was ſeated again and Arteſia by him, Phylaſtes hearing of Ornatus return (notwithſtanding his many and greivous wounds, yet by reaſon that they were not mortal) as well as he could came into the preſence; where beholding Ornatus and Arteſia crowned, kneeled down before them, being exceedingly rejoyced to behold that heavenly ſight; whom Ornatus and Arteſia kindely embraced, rejoycing to ſee ſo much hopes of his recovery: after they had ſpent ſome time in their unfeigned ſalutations, they willed Phylaſtes to ſit down amongſt them.

Then Ornatus firſt commanding Floretus to be ſent for out of priſon, thus ſaid: Now there reſteth nothing but to give ſentence againſt theſe, that by conſpiracies have been murtherers, which fact is ſo hainous, that it maketh them odious both to God and man: in which offence, both thou Lenon, Lucertus, and Floretus, are all guilty; therefore Lenon (quoth he) firſt declare what moved thee from time to time, to commit ſo many and greivous acts as thou haſt done? Lenons heart was dead with vexation to ſee him crowned, and Arteſia choſen his Queen, and hanging down his head gave him no anſwer: but Lucertus humbled himſelf upon his knee, and asked pardon. By this time Floretus was brought in, who looked with ſuch a meager and pale countenance, by reaſon of his long impriſonment, that Arteſia wept to behold him, and could not chuſe but run and embrace him; upon her knee intreating Ornatus to pardon the offence he had committed, which was againſt none but her ſelf.

Ornatus ſeeing her kneel, ſuddenly caught her up; embracing Floretus, and commanding his hands to be unbound, he thus ſpake: I not onely with a willing heart pardon you, but alſo give unto you for ever, all thoſe poſſeſſions which belonged unto your brother Arbaſtus, wiſhing that as you have found mercy from us here, that you would likewiſe endeavour to make your peace with heaven, that you may finde the like hereafter. Floretus (who expected nothing but death) was exceeding joyful, and humbly upon his knee yeilded many thanks.

Then

Then Ornatus ſeating himſelf again, ſaid: Becauſe this day is the firſt of our Reign, which ſhould begin with mercy and not with rigour, there ſhall not a drop of blood by our command be ſpilt: And therefore Lenon (though thou deſerveſt no favour but a moſt miſerable death) We freely pardon thée; but withall baniſh thee our Court, where on pain of death ſet not thy foot, leſt thy life ranſome thy preſumption. As for you Lucertus, We command you upon pain of death, within ten dayes to depart this Land, from whence we baniſh you for ever, which doom is too merciful.

This ſaid, taking Arteſia by the hand, he was by the Peers with a noiſe of Trumpets and exceeding joy, conducted to a Chappel, and in royal manner married to Arteſia; and from thence to an Imperial Feaſt, ſpending all that day in great pleaſure, and at night taking lawful delight in her love: both then, and during the time of both their lives, living in moſt pleaſant, loving, and vertuous ſort: Inſomuch, that moſt places of the known World were filled with the report of their vertuous lives, and peaceable Government.

FINIS.